THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

ISRAEL AGREES TO TEMP TRUCE, BALL IN HAMAS' COURT, U.S. SAYS

Israelis have more or less accepted a proposal for a six-week ceasefire in Gaza and release of vulnerable hostages by Hamas, US official said

5,75,000

PEOPLE ARE ONE STEP AWAY FROM FAMINE IN GAZA, U.N. WARNS

PRISONER SWAP RATIO IS KEY ISSUE

Israeli media said the issue is the identity of hostages who will be released and how many Palestinian prisoners will be freed in exchange. Talks were held in Doha on Saturday and Cairo on Sunday. US, Qatar, Egypt are involved. Israel did not attend the Cairo talks after Hamas refused to give a list of hostages who are still alive | P9

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SURE OF THIRD TERM, PM & MINISTERS PLAN FOR NEXT INNINGS

Meet discusses action plan for 100 days

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ New Delhi

CONFIDENT of retaining power for the third consecutive term, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday chaired a day-long meeting of his Council of Ministers to discuss the immediate steps to be taken by the next government within the first 100 days. The meeting, probably the last such gathering before the Lok Sabha polls, also discussed the action plan for the next five years, and a blue print to make India a developed country by 2047.

Sources said PM Modi kicked off the 8-hour discussion by sharing his thoughts on the comprehensive Viksit-Bharat- 2047 vision document and spoke for an hour about the various long-term strategies for India's progress. This was followed by presentations by the ministers on their respective ministries' roadmap for 25 years with special focus on the next five years and 100 days.

It was decided that steps will be taken to ensure the Central schemes reach every intended beneficiary. Sources said the deliberations included steps to ensure zero poverty and impart skills to the youth.

The vision document includes goals and action points for economic growth, ease of living and ease of doing business, social welfare, and Sustainable Development Goals.

"Creating a sustainable economy to push the country to become the third-largest economy, placing equal emphasise on empowerment of women and poor with the spirit of *atamnirbhar* (self reliance) has been one of the primary bases of the vision document," said a source, adding that the details and outcome of more than 2,700 meetings held across the ministries have been added in the roadmap for 2047.

TNIE has learnt that Modi suggested that a separate budget of ₹1 lakh crore be earmarked for development of technologies to accelerate the pace of progresses. It was also advised that every ministry in future should frequently organise seminars with experts and try to implement good suggestions through suitable policies. "The objective of the discussions was to ensure saturation of the government's welfare schemes, planning of people-centric policies, and schemes for time-bound elimination of poverty", said a source.

CM: Blast case will be handed over to NIA, if needed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chikkamagaluru/Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah said on Sunday that the Bengaluru cafe blast case will be handed over to NIA, if necessary.

Disclosing this to reporters in Chikkamagaluru, he said that his government has taken the case very seriously and all efforts will be made to bring those behind it to book.

Vital clues

Meanwhile, Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara said in Bengaluru that the investigating officers have gathered important clues and the accused in the cafe blast case will be arrested soon.

He said the cafe blast and Mangaluru cooker explosion cases have similarities. The NIA might have an idea of which terrorist outfit might be involved in the cafe blast.

Reacting to Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil's remark that the cafe blast is a "silly incident", Siddaramaiah said it is definitely not silly and people's safety is his government's top priority.

Criticising Leader of Opposition R Ashoka for his statement that the image of Bengaluru has changed from "Brand Bengaluru" to "Bomb Bengaluru", the CM said four blasts, including the one near the BJP office at Malleswaram in Bengaluru, took place during the saffron party's rule in 2008.

"Is it not a failure on the part of agencies such as RAW and NIA, which are under the NDA government at the Centre. I strongly condemn such incidents. The BJP should not politicise the cafe blast case. Ashoka should think twice before making such comments," he said. CONTINUED ON: P3

PRASHANT KISHOR
'JAGAN MAY LOSE BIG TIME IN ANDHRA'

Ace political strategist Prashant Kishor, who played a key role in YSRC chief Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy's massive victory in 2019, has predicted that the Andhra CM is going to lose big in the ensuing assembly elections. Prashant was speaking on the pre-poll scenarios in India at the Hyderabad Dialogues – an initiative of TNIE – on Sunday | P5

EXPRESS READ

Controversial Calcutta HC judge to resign

Kolkata: Calcutta High Court judge Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay, who is in the crosshairs of the ruling TMC, said he will resign on Tuesday. P7

Denied ticket, Harsh Vardhan quits politics

New Delhi: Senior BJP leader Dr Harsh Vardhan on Sunday announced that he was quitting politics, a day after the BJP denied him a Lok Sabha ticket. P7

INDIA bloc leaders flex muscles at Patna rally

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

FORMER Congress president Rahul Gandhi said on Sunday that the Narendra Modi government at the Centre was ignoring 73% of the country's population. Addressing a rally in Patna, Rahul said that farmers, youth and others are meted out injustice.

"The Central government is neglecting the plight of the country's population that belongs to marginalised sections of the society," he said.

Launching a scathing attack on the government at the Centre, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge accused the prime minister of failing to deliver on his promises.

He questioned the veracity of Modi's assurances regarding job creation, black money retrieval and pucca houses for all. He also accused BJP of betraying the trust of people and engaging in manipulative tactics devoid of factual basis.

Taking a swipe at Bihar CM and JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar, who recently parted ways with the Opposition alliance to join the NDA, the Congress chief advised RJD not to ally with him if he comes back.

Taking a dig at Nitish, Bihar's Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav said the Bihar government should get its insurance done as it runs the risk of JD(U) president taking repeated U-turns. "They (BJP) say 'Modi Ki Guarantee', but who will take the guarantee of Nitish Kumar?" he asked.

Referring to Modi's remarks on nepotism, Tejashwi said the BJP, too, has dynasts. He cited the examples of Samrat Choudhary, whose father was a politician; Santosh Suman, son of Jitan Ram Manjhi; and Pashupati Kumar Paras, brother of Ram Vilas Paswan.

Shehbaz Sharif makes a statement in Pakistan Parliament after securing enough votes to become PM | AFP

New Pakistan PM mentions Kashmir in victory speech

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

SHEHBAZ Sharif becomes the new prime minister of Pakistan after securing 201 votes out of 336 in Pakistan's Parliament in a vote of confidence held on Sunday amidst protests from supporters of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan. He takes oath of office on Monday.

Speaking in Parliament after the vote, Shehbaz, 72 years old, brought up Kashmir in his speech and said the Parliament should pass a resolution for the freedom of Kashmiris. Also in his speech, he said he would eradicate terrorism and would maintain cordial relations with neighbours based on the principles of equality.

Shehbaz, who was the prime minister till the parliament was dissolved in August 2023, takes charge at a time when Pakistan is deep in debt and where even the expenses of running the Parliament are paid through borrowed money, he said.

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Minor Irrigation and
Ground Water Department
Sri D K Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Foundation Laying of
Vrishabhavati Lift Irrigation Project
By
Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Siddaramaiah &
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Sri D.K. Shivakumar
On 4th March 2024 | Time : 10.00 AM
Venue : Bommanahalli Grama, Bengaluru-Tumukuru National Highway, Budihala Grama Panchayiti, Nelamangala Taluk.
IN THE PRESENCE OF
Sri K.H. Muniyappa
Hon'ble Minister of Food & Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs
Dr. G. Parameshwar
Hon'ble Home Minister and Tumkur District In-charge Minister
Dr. M.C. Sudhakar
Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education and Chikkaballapur In-charge Minister
Sri N.S. Boseraju
Hon'ble Minister for Minor Irrigation, Science and Technology
• For the first time since independence, the government has launched a large-scale initiative to recharge groundwater in Bengaluru & other drought affected districts.
• The foundation stone for Phase 1 of the Vrishabhavathi Valley project is being laid, with the goal of delivering 243 MLD of treated sewage water from Bangalore City to 70 tanks located in the Bangalore City, Bangalore Rural and Tumkur Districts.
The persistent failure of rains in the dry plains of Bengaluru Rural, Bangalore City, Tumkur, and Chikkaballapur districts over the last several decades has resulted in the drying up of rivers, lakes, and several water bodies in ditches devoid of water. As a result, the only available water source for farmers in this area is tube wells. According to groundwater statistics, the groundwater level has dropped by approximately 1000-1200 feet as a result of excessive groundwater extraction for agriculture and other activities. To address this, the Department of Minor Irrigation, led by Minister N.S. Boseraju, has launched a Rs 1081 crore lift irrigation project to fill 70 lakes in the first phase, resulting in long-term groundwater augmentation. This is one of the ambitious projects to divert 243 MLD of the total 308 MLD of water from the Rajarajeshwari Nagar BWSSB Nayandahalli & 65 MLD from Mylasandra BWSSB sewage treatment plant in Bangalore to a total of 259 lakes, including 189 lakes planned for implementation in the second and third phases.
DELIVERED AS PROMISED
Free bus service for women across
Gruha Jyothi UPTO 200 UNITS FREE ELECTRICITY
Anna Bhagya 10kg Free food grains
Gruha Lakshmi ₹2000 per month to the female head of the family
Yuva Nidhi ₹3000 Per month for Graduates ₹1500 Per month for Diploma Holders
Hon'ble Minister for Minor Irrigation, Science and Technology
Sri N.S. Boseraju interacting with the public.
As is enshrined in our Constitution, to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.
All are welcome

ALMANAC TODAY
Monday: 04/03/2024 • Year: Shobhakruta • Ayana: Uttharayana • Ritu: Sishira • Masa: Magha • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Navami 2.30 am • Nakshatra: Jyeshta 11.22 am • Moon in Dhanur Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am • Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 18°C | MAX 34°C
FORECAST Cloudy
Sunrise 06.33 am
Sunset 06.29 pm
Moonrise 12.55 am
Moonset 12.24 pm

Defunct RO plants leave citizens high & dry

People depending on water ATMs complain that buying from pvt supplier is a big expense

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

WHILE officials of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) have been holding marathon meetings and are claiming that they are relieving the water problem in the city this summer, a stark reality is that many Reverse Osmosis (RO) drinking water plants set up by the civic body are non-functional. Thousands of people have been depending on the 600 water ATMs for the past few years. These ATMs give out 20 litres of RO water once you feed it with a Rs 5 coin. As many of these plants no longer give water, citizens are forced to get water cans from private suppliers who charge anything above Rs 30 for every can.

"I stay in Azad Nagar. All these years my morning routine was to get water cans filled from the RO plant in the area. However, the plant is not functioning for the past many days.

The BBMP's RO drinking water plants in many areas are now defunct.

There is none whom we can question to know the problem. For our family, we need a minimum of two water cans per day and this goes up on weekends when everyone stays at home" said Harish, a bank employee.

Harish said that now he is getting water from a private water supplier and pays Rs 40 per can. "It is a big expense for me daily," he rues.

The situation is more or less similar across the city where citizens in the absence of a working RO plant near them, commute to their other areas with functional ones and end up disappointed looking at the serpentine queue there.

"Water is supplied to us only from 6-9 in the morning and evening. When we head to fetch water at that time, people queue up heavily and to get a can of water we have to wait for nearly an hour or more. As many are working, they cannot afford to wait so long and end up buying water cans from private suppliers, which again is a burden for them" said Prakash Murugan, a resident of Rajarajeshwari Nagar.

Citizens questioned where all the huge funds that BBMP is claiming to have been allocating to alleviate the water crisis are draining into as their water crisis issues are not addressed. BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath did not respond to repeated calls.

BWSSB APPEALS CITIZEN TO RENT OUT TANKERS

Bengaluru: To cater to the shortage of tankers at its disposal to dispatch water to areas where there is a shortage, the BWSSB has appealed to the public to rent out their available tankers. A BWSSB official said some resident welfare associations which used to bring water using tankers from their borewells no longer do so, and the tankers are lying idle. An official release said those interested in renting their tankers can contact Jaishankar, Chief Engineer, Designs, BWSSB, on 9845444009.

3 Vande Bharat trains pelted with stones on a single day

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THREE different Vande Bharat trains passing through South Western Railway Zone were pelted with stones by miscreants on Sunday (March 3). Though there were no injuries, the glass window panes of the trains were damaged.

Inspector General-cum-Principal Chief Security Commissioner, Railway Protection Force, SWR, Rama Shankar Prasad Singh told The New Indian Express that no arrests have been made so far.

"Unfortunately, three incidents have taken place on a single day. Our cops rushed to different spots and investigations are on," he added.

Two of the three incidents occurred within the Bengaluru Railway Division.

The first incident at 6.15 am when the KSR Bengaluru-Dharwad Vande Bharat Express (Train No. 20661) crossed Chikkabanavara railway station in Bengaluru Railway Division. "Miscreants pelted stones on coach C6 on the window in seats 40, 41 and 42," Singh said.

The second incident occurred around 3.20 pm when the Dharwad-KSR Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express (Train No. 20662) was travelling in the return direction. Stones were thrown on the window panes of coach C5 between Haveri and Harihar railway stations in Mysuru Division.

Cracked window of the KSR Bengaluru-Dharwad Express near Chikkabanavar station on Sunday

The third incident occurred on the Mysuru-MGR Central Vande Bharat, around 200 metres before Kuppam station in Bengaluru Division at 4.30 pm. "From the right side of the engine, a miscreant pelted stones damaging glass panes in C4 coach where seats 40, 41 & 42 are located," Singh said.

Singh said cases are booked under Sections 147 (Trespassing on railway track) and section 153 (endangering the safety of persons travelling by railway by willful act or omission).

Singh added that 45 arrests have been made from July to December last year in stone pelting cases on Vande Bharat trains alone. Nearly 70 percent of these are minors who do it for fun.

"We hand them over to the juvenile court and they decide on the action to be taken. In the case of adults, we book them under the Railway Act," said Singh. Following stringent action taken by the RPF, the incidents had come down drastically but suddenly shot up on Sunday, the IG added.

Vande Bharat to Renigunta in the offing

The Railway Board plans to run a new Vande Bharat Express between Bengaluru and Renigunta within a week. "We have been told to keep a rake ready by March 10. It will help pilgrims as the station is very close to Tirupati," said a senior railway official of the Bengaluru Division.

'Foreign body' found in prisoner's stomach, warders may lose jobs

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

A 'foreign body' found in the stomach of an undertrial prisoner is likely to jeopardise the careers of three young jail warders at the Bengaluru Central Prison.

All was well for jail warders Ravindranath K Hugara (28), Anand Kadakol (27) and Dorenaik PR (27) till Rehman Khan, the undertrial, entered the prison. When Khan complained of severe stomach pain on September 10, 2023, the doctors at the prison suspected the presence of some 'foreign body' in his abdomen.

Khan was treated as an inpatient in Victoria Hospital from September 10 to 16 when the doctors there removed a 10"x5" packet from his stomach and handed it over to the prison officials.

When they opened the packet, the officials were surprised to see three mobile phones, three earphones and four charging cables. Subsequently, a complaint was lodged with Parappana Agrahara police against Khan.

During investigation, the role of prison staff in helping the undertrial prisoner was suspected. Hence, fearing action against them, the three jail warders recently approached the 55th Additional City Civil and Sessions Court for anticipatory bail. In their petition, they claimed that they are aspiring for the posts of police sub-inspector and have been making preparations for the same. Their careers will be affected if they are arrested in the case, they stated.

The jail warders contended that they are innocent and have not committed any offence. They have nothing to do with the 'foreign body' found in the stomach of the undertrial prisoner. When the undertrial was brought to the central prison, he underwent three stages of frisking/checking, but nothing was found, they claimed.

Challenging the anticipatory bail petition, the public prosecutor contended that if the jail warders get bail, they may hamper prosecution witnesses as there is a prima facie case against them.

Judge Shriram Narayan Hegde, said, "I have gone through the material available on record... There are no criminal antecedents and the petitioners' names are not mentioned either in the complaint or in the First Information Report. They are ready to abide by the conditions that may be imposed by this court. Under such circumstances, reasonable conditions will meet the objection of the prosecution."

Allowing their petition on February 28, the court granted anticipatory bail to them on certain conditions.

VACCINE WAR
An infant is administered the Pulse Polio vaccine on the first day of the three-day drive in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

EXPRESS READ

M Srinivas new chairman of KSTDC

Bengaluru: The Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) will now be led by M Srinivas as the chairperson. He earlier led the KSTDC in the 1990s. The 74-year-old Congress MLC from Chikkamagaluru district, has been a part of several house committees with wide-ranging legislative and administrative responsibilities. "Karnataka is full of locations rich for tourism opportunities. We can surely be at the forefront of tourism," he said.

Oxford ELLT launches new testing products

Bengaluru: Oxford ELLT, a English language level assessment, announced the launch of its global language testing products - Oxford ELLT Digital and Oxford ELLT Global. These language testing products will cater to the evolving needs of Indian students aspiring for Higher Education and provide a reliable method for assessing reading, listening, writing, and speaking skills. For more information visit https://oxfordellt.com/partners/

156 gold medalists at UAS convocation

Bengaluru: The University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) will hold its 58th convocation at GKVK's Babu Rajendra Prasad International Convention Hall, on Monday. This year, a total of 1,244 students will be graduating, with a total of 156 gold medalists. MC Rangaswamy of Doddamagge village, Arakalagudu taluk, will be awarded an honourary doctorate in agriculture, for his adopting integrated farming in 600 acres of land.

8-yr-old undergoes combined liver, kidney transplant at Apollo

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AN 8year old girl child from Tamil Nadu, underwent an unique combined liver and kidney transplant operation in the city at Apollo Hospitals, Seshadripuram. This is the first case in India where aquadex was used from waynia to prepare the critical patient for the operation theatre for simultaneous liver–kidney transplant.

Lakshmi (name changed) was diagnosed with congenital hepatic fibrosis and autosomal recessive polycystic kidney disease. It is a genetic disease that manifested in her, at the age of six. She was suffering from severe liver disease complications and kidney failure, leaving her in dire need of a life-saving transplant. Though her mother and father had decided to donate their organs, both of them had cross-match positivity (which means the organs after the transplant may be rejected if transplanted from either of the parents). However, Lakshmi received the organs of a 14-year-old.

"We faced a significant challenge during the procedure. Due to the risk of infection from the cystic kidneys, removing her kidneys and inserting new kidney posed a unique challenge. Additionally, accommodating a 14-year-old's kidney presented spatial constraints, leading us to opt for the left side," said Dr Manohar T, Chief of Urology Services, Uro-oncology and Kidney Transplantation, Laser, Laparoscopic, and Robotic Surgeon. Drawing on his extensive expertise, Dr Manohar decided to proceed with kidney transplantation without native kidney nephrectomy.

Dr Arun Kumar N, Senior Consultant Nephrologist and Transplant Physician, said, "We take great pride in our ability to perform such intricate procedures with exceptional outcomes consistently."

The patient Lakshmi, with her parents and team of doctors from Apollo | Express

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

04TH March : People talk about the Monday-morning blues. I have no idea why, except that blue means to feel down, as in blues music. But I wonder if there's a more ancient connection: the Moon is traditionally a 'water' planet, the sea is blue - and so on, if you know what I mean. Anyway, I hope you don't have the blues!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Much has been written about your professional hopes and ambitions over the past year or so. Now those of you climbing the career ladder may at last expect your aspirations to be satisfied. Yet over the next twelve months it's your social goals which gradually take over.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Once again the planetary alignment is extraordinarily favourable, and one area of your life which stands to benefit is your relationships with children. There may even be news of an addition to the family before long. And you may be hoping for more, and well-deserved, luxury and space.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
For the next five days the stars are superb for all those involved in property deals, whether selling or buying. If you're not planning a move, at the very least you can get on with domestic improve-ments. Plus, your relation-ships with children are set to gradually improve.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The general tone of the times is optimistic although, as always, there is a chance that your hopes could be raised too high. Make a point of pushing your ideas forward and try to persuade partners that your plans are best. Otherwise, you'll face a delay of at least a month.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
You may expect your hard work and efforts to be rewarded financially, perhaps through extra savings, perhaps as a result of increased earnings. Such good fortune may not take place today but you should have seen your efforts bear fruit within six days.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
When the Sun encounters Jupiter on its way from Neptune to Pluto, the only response that is justified is one of wonderment at all that life has to offer. To fully appreciate just how well you are doing, you must raise your sights from routine drudgery.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Friends must now be seeing important questions in a new light. It is amazing, is it not, how easy you find it to persuade people that you are right? You must, though, make an almighty effort to please. But, then, that is what you're so good at anyway!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
There's much happening that is difficult to explain. However, rather than flounder around in a sea of confusion, may I suggest that you leave all vague and muddled questions on one side for the time being. That way you'll be free to focus on spiritual matters.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
For the next six days your planets point to one conclusion: all your past professional and financial efforts and struggles are soon to be rewarded in such a manner as to show you that it was all worth while. It also looks very much as if you are about to make a financial break-through.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
You still have a great deal to gain from other people, though not necessarily in a material sense. You have much to learn, for example, in terms of having the courage of your convictions and the determination to stick to what you know to be right and proper.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You're not alone in believing that financial affairs are essentially mysterious and impossible to explain. Yet this week you must have faith that developments, of which you may as yet be completely unaware, are in your best interests. That, briefly, is the only way to make sure that the future works out in your favour.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
There are still one or two conflicts in the air but, while partners are likely to be irritable, you are capable of being quite short-tempered yourself. This week is the time for some of your famous tolerance. Only you can really gauge how close partners are really feeling.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

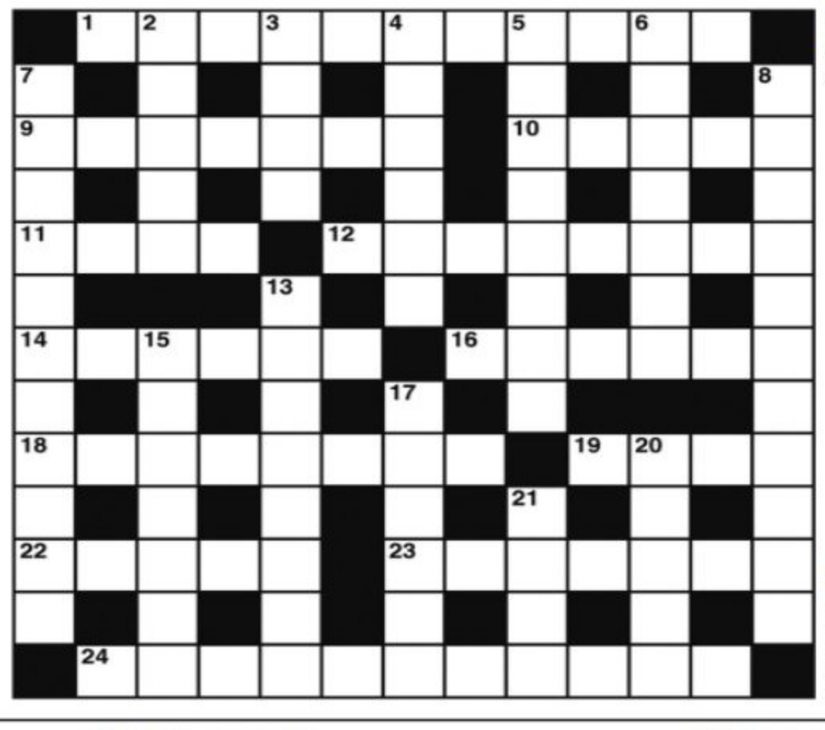
			4	8		3	1	
3					9	4		2
1			3	2				
2	4		5	6			9	
	5			1			4	
	6			4	3		2	5
				9	4			6
6		2	8					4
	1	9		5	7			

2	7	3	4	5	1	6	8	9
9	6	4	3	8	7	2	1	5
8	1	5	2	9	6	4	7	3
5	8	7	1	6	2	9	3	4
3	4	2	9	7	8	5	6	1
1	9	6	5	4	3	8	2	7
4	2	8	7	3	5	1	9	6
7	5	1	6	2	9	3	4	8
6	3	9	8	1	4	7	5	2

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Carrying on, Mother gets canteen in uproar (11)
9 Intrude clumsily but not subjected to litigation (7)
10 Sovereign support for a firm line (5)
11 Clothes to boast about (4)
12 Wishing to change our sides (8)
14 Decoration I bar in a way (6)
16 Ancient words of wisdom from Oswald (3,3)
18 Suddenly burly Pat got reformed (8)
19 Boss dedicated to raising the stock (4)
22 A teacher's means of transport (5)
23 Dog holding jiving cat gives a turn on ice (7)
24 A belligerent disposition (6,5)

DOWN
2 Daisy has rates revised (5)
3 Fingertip fastener (4)
4 Went against the current trend? (6)
5 Dilatory perhaps but performed with skill (8)
6 Being hardened a summons is nothing to us (7)
7 A procession of empty protest (6,5)
8 Women who have no-one to mow their lawns? (5,6)
13 Picture may take a goalkeeper by surprise (8)
15 Bolts with a girl (7)
17 Sort of hat used by gardeners (6)
20 Right, let it out (5)
21 Trip to an ancient city (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Detain, 4 Use force, 9 Lyrics, 10 Book ends, 12 Gate, 13 Gasps, 14 Sung, 17 Talk at length, 20 Parallel bars, 23 Leap, 24 Clasp, 25 Once, 28 Slashing, 29 Mascot, 30 Abstruse, 31 Legend.

Down: 1 Delights, 2 Throttle, 3 Itch, 5 Shopping list, 6 Fake, 7 Ranout, 8 Ensign, 11 Railway lines, 15 Fatal, 16 Atoll, 18 Barnacle, 19 Asserted, 21 Plasma, 22 Calais, 26 Char, 27 Page.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

ATAEB

TLOAT

DLAGYL

SRNPOE

And the lamp-light o'er him streaming throws his shadow on the floor;
And my soul from out that shadow that lies floating on the floor
Shall be lifted nevermore!
Oh, my! He has a way with words.
THE STYLE USED TO WRITE "THE RAVEN" TURNED THE AUTHOR INTO AN ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble
1/5

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: KNOWN SEIZE GYPSUM TAWDRY
Answer: They were beginning to teach their child addition, but it was going to — TAKE "SUM" DOING

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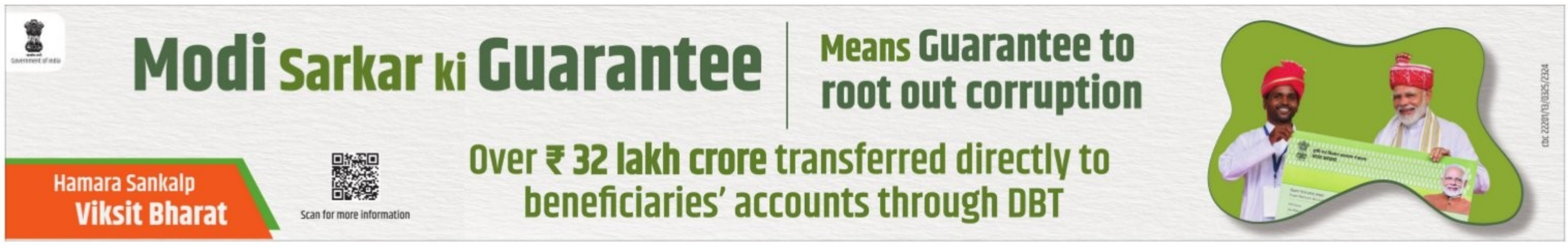
A lorry driver, Mahesh Kumar, was arrested after he allegedly attempted to run over a tahsildar with his vehicle, after the official questioned him regarding illegal transportation of sand from a nearby lake. The incident happened close to Bheemasandra in Harohalli taluk of Ramanagara district on February 29, when tahsildar Vijayanna went to inspect a lorry suspected of illegally transporting sand


Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee
Means Guarantee to root out corruption
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Minors made 1,07,305 distress calls in 3 years

PURAN CHOUDHARY @Bengaluru

IN the past three years, Karnataka recorded a total of 1,07,305 distress calls from minors. Irked by the data, child rights activists in the state have demanded remedial measures and data on action taken against the perpetrators. Activists also alleged that these numbers could possibly be under-reported, and a district-level breakdown is a must to understand how local communities can help in reducing these numbers.

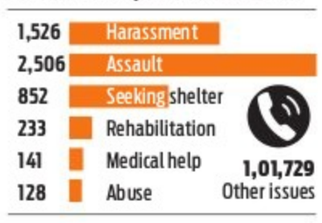
Lakshmi Hebbalkar, Minister for Women and Child Development and Empowerment of Differently-Abled and Senior Citizens, revealed the data during the recently concluded legislative assembly session. The query was made by MLC Madhu G Madegowda.

Among the 1,07,305 phone calls, 141 calls sought medical treatment, 852 calls were made for shelter, 223 for rehabilitation of children, 128 reported abuse, 1,526 were against harassment, 2,506 against assault and exploitation. The rest of the 1,01,729 calls from children were listed as other issues, and not categorized further.

These calls were made to the 1098 helpline, which used to be run by NGOs in the state before being taken under the Central government's ambit through 112, the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS), in 2023.

JUVENILE AGONY

In the past three years, a total of 1,07,305 distress calls have been recorded on helplines 1098 and 112:



Vasudev Sharma, former member of the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR), said the breakup of these numbers is very crucial to understand the measures the districts must take. "It is imperative that the government reveals what actions have been taken against the crimes reported. How many FIRs were filed, how many individuals were arrested, how many cases are in court and what number of children were rehabilitated," he questioned.

Sharma has worked closely with these distress calls and said that as per his experience, maximum cases would have been reported from metro cities, especially Bengaluru. He added that awareness is needed for districts not reporting enough calls.

SUSPECT EMPLOYED MULTIPLE TACTICS TO HIDE IDENTITY

Sources say he wore t-shirt over another t-shirt, boarded multiple buses, got down at different stops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

TO conceal his identity and make it difficult for the police to trace him, the suspect in Friday's The Rameshwaram Cafe bomb blast in Bengaluru reportedly wore a t-shirt over another t-shirt and layered his trousers with other trousers, police sources said. The blast in the popular eatery in Bengaluru's Brookfield area at about 1 pm on Friday injured 10 people.

According to a police source, the blast was carried out by a lone wolf who reached the cafe in a BMTC Volvo bus plying between Kadugodi and Central Silk Board, altering routes along the way, and purchasing tickets for certain buses while riding without tickets in others. To evade being traced easily, the suspect boarded multiple buses and deboarded at multiple bus stops. He finally deboarded at the CMRIT bus stop and walked a few meters to reach the restaurant. "Because he changed buses multiple times, traveling in some with and others without tickets, it is difficult to trace the link to his destination. Though we have identified the bus he boarded through the BMTC CCTV camera footage, his movements before and after remain untraced. Because of this, we are yet to rule out the possibility of the suspect having left Bengaluru," a police officer said.

The Rameshwaram Cafe at Rajajinagar in Bengaluru sees fewer customers during the weekend in the wake of the blast | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Meanwhile, Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara told reporters that the police have collected close to 40-50 CCTV camera recordings. "The evidence suggests that the suspect arrived on a bus. Around the time of the incident, 26 buses were recorded passing through the area. We have reviewed footage from all 26 buses and identified the one he boarded," the minister elaborated

Further, he said that one angle under scrutiny was whether the intention behind the incident was to create fear, especially ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. Also, it is speculated that given the influx of investors due to a stable government, the incident could have been an attempt to deter them from choosing Bengaluru, he said. The minister added that the police were also probing the business rivalry angle.

Meanwhile, the attempt to trace the suspect's location through mobile tower data has been unsuccessful.

NO BUSINESS RIVALRY, SAYS CAFE CEO

The Rameshwaram Cafe co-founder and CEO Raghavendra Rao said they had found unattended bags twice previously at their Rajajinagar branch and these were promptly handed over to the police. Speaking to reporters on Sunday, Rao requested the state government to ensure that such incidents do not happen again. "We all share the same identity as food providers. We won't compete to take out each other's business. We have entrusted the case to the police, who are investigating it diligently," he added. The cafe is set to reopen on Friday.

IED similar to M'luru cooker bomb: Param

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

DR Parameshwara, who held a meeting with senior police officers in Bengaluru, said, "The images of the accused have been obtained from the CCTV footage and the investigation is proceeding in the right direction. Sleuths of NIA and NSG officials are also investigating the case. We will extend our cooperation. I appeal to the people of Bengaluru not to worry. I have instructed the DCPs of all divisions to take all precautionary measures in the city."

Dr Parameshwara said the detonating system, the timer, and the batteries in the IED were similar to those in the Mangaluru cooker bomb.

"The nuts and nails in the IED hit the roof of the cafe. It would have been devastating had the bomb exploded sidewise. We have checked over 40 CCTV cameras, including those on 26 BMTC buses which operated in the area when the blast took place," he said.

On the alleged pro-Pakistan sloganeering at Vidhana Soudha, the home minister said that he is yet to get the FSL report. Action will be initiated based on the report.

Home Minister G Parameshwara with top police officials after a meeting on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

"Sometimes ministers make off the cuff remarks. Whether it is the case of Sharana Prakash Patil or some others, we do not take their statements as official. I make statements based on certain information which is official," he said.

When asked about the government allegedly receiving the FSL report three days ago and sending it back seeking some clarifications, he said, "There is no question of any clarification. We will act once we receive the report. We are not going to ask for a second or third report. There is nothing to hide. Let the BJP make allegations, we will react."

PIC: NAGARAJA GADEKAL

WHEN THE NIGHT STAYS YOUNG...

Cities never sleep. Extending working hours raises hopes of growth for businesses, and revenue for the government. On the flip side, there are worries of safety and policing

BIG PICTURE

VINCENT D'SOUZA

THE State government's budget announcement to extend business hours of restaurants and other merchant establishments has provided the much-needed boost to the service industry, which is still recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic impact. Business establishments in Bengaluru and 10 other city corporations have wholeheartedly welcomed the decision as it was their long-pending demand. But whether it will be a success in all 11 cities or benefit business in just a few cities will be known only a few months after its rollout.

Apart from Bengaluru, the cities of Mangaluru, Mysuru, Hubballi-Dharwad and Belagavi, where there is a significant floating population due to reasons like tourism and industrial development, booming IT-BT industry, educational and transit hubs are most likely to benefit from this decision, provided there is a proper ecosystem like public transport, street lighting, security and so on. Smaller cities like Kalaburagi and Ballari have welcomed the decision, but are apprehensive of its success.

Calculations have already begun with regard to the additional burden on overhead costs like extra shift, electricity etc, while security is a major concern for both business establishments and people who want to make the best use of the decision.

Bengaluru: Vibrant city, boost to tourism

Sajjan Raj Mehta, trade activist, said, "Bengaluru is renowned for its traditional South Indian cuisine, which is a favourite among locals and tourists alike. However, classic eateries like Vidyarthi Bhavan, Central Tiffin Room (CTR), Mavalli Tiffin Room, and similar establishments typically close by 9pm. With the decision to extend operating hours, tourists and those who finish work late at night will now have the opportunity to savour the city's delicacies. Previously, people tended to explore pubs and hotels, which are allowed to operate until 1am on weekends when many are free. This move will provide equal importance and revenue to both varieties of eateries, and a lively experience to customers, expanding culinary experiences beyond just nightlife options."

Deputy Commissioner of Police, South-East, CK Baba said, "Extending operating hours in areas like Koramangala and HSR Layout stimulates business growth, meeting evolving consumer needs and creating a vibrant atmosphere for locals and tourists. This initiative amplifies economic activity, particularly in such lively areas, fostering a thriving nightlife that attracts visitors and boosts the city's tourism sector."

The senior officer added that by reinforcing police presence during these extended hours, they can strike a balance that not only supports business expansion but also caters to consumer demands. This ensures the overall well-being and liveliness of the area, harmonising growth with safety measures for a secure and dynamic environment.

Mangaluru: Will benefit certain businesses

Many feel the decision will only help some specific businesses, like bars and restaurants, pubs and discotheques. Jagadish Shenoy, president, DK Hotel Owners' Association, said that after the Covid-19 pandemic, 80 per cent of the 500-odd vegetarian restaurants in Dakshina Kannada, including Mangaluru, have stopped serving dinner due to low business. Shenoy runs two restaurants in upmarket Hampankatta and Kodialbail area, which shut at 8pm and 7pm respectively. He feels the extended hours won't help them.

Varun Kumar, who runs a bar and restaurant at Lalbagh area, says the decision will definitely help them as even now customers walking in at 11pm.

Yatish Baikampady, a tourism expert, feels extension of business hours will boost business of shops, malls, food joints, theatres and travel companies. He says beaches will attract crowds at night if proper lighting and friendly lifeguards are made available. "Our coast is mature for late night events. We are used to night events like Kola, Kambala, Yakshagana and Jatre (which stretch into night hours)," he points out.

KCCI president Ananthesh V Prabhu says longer hours will help businesses grow, provided there is public transport, and safety and law and order is taken care of by police. Mangaluru City Police Commissioner Anupam Agarwal said the decision is unlikely to be implemented before the Lok Sabha elections, which is top priority for the police now. Right now, the atmosphere is not conducive to implement the decision, and once elections are over, police will hold discussions with all stakeholders for its smooth implementation.

Mysuru: No hardship for tourists

Mysuru Hotel Association president Narayana Gowda said many tourists from across the country arrive at Mysuru city at night. Now they won't have to face hardship in finding quality food. People living in the city too can enjoy evenings with their families at their favourite restaurants. The announcement will boost tourism and revenue, said Gowda.

"The responsibility of the police has increased as they need to ensure the safety of the people. We will be increasing installation of CCTV cameras at major junctions and also deploy more police personnel for patrolling till 1pm," said a police officer.

Kalaburagi: Not ready for nightlife yet

Kalyana Karnataka Chamber of Commerce & Industries as well as Hotel Owners' Association feel the decision will not help business establishments in Kalaburagi city in any way. According to KKCCI secretary Manjunath Jewargi, it may help only malls and supermarkets which are very few in number. For small businesses that employ about 5-8 staffers, it may not work out to run another shift. He said there are almost zero walk-ins by 10pm as there is no floating population in the city, due to the absence of big industries and business establishments.

Secretary of Hotel Owners' Association Narasimha Mendon said the government's decision might help lodges and hotels which are near the railway station and Central Bus Stand. He expressed fear of criminals taking advantage of nightlife extension.

Vijayapura: Business sector will grow

Babugouda Biradar, a prominent restaurant owner in Vijayapura, said the decision to extend business hours will help traders, the public and government in many ways. "With cities such as Vijayapura growing, many people travel at odd hours. These people face difficulty in getting food late at night. If hotels are allowed to operate till 1am, it helps people who need food in the late hours, he said.

Abdul Wahid, another restaurant owner, said keeping restaurants open till late at night will help people enjoy food at leisure. Since an airport is also coming up in Vijayapura, passengers could be arriving late and will get food even at that hour.

Shivamogga: Eateries will thrive

Business establishments and hotel industries have welcomed the decision to extend business hours. N Gopinath, president of Shivamogga District Chamber of Commerce and Industries said this kind of system suits places where people work night shifts. "We need to wait and watch how people respond to it," he said, adding that by and large, it will help only eateries because of youngsters who are ready to go out at night.

Belagavi: Hoteliers ready for change

Ajay Pai, President, Hotel Owners' Association, Belagavi, welcomed the decision and said it will give huge relief, especially to hoteliers.

He said members of the association have already discussed the issue with police officials, the district administration and Belagavi City Corporation, and are waiting for the decision to be implemented. Pai said police should not 'inconvenience' people during extended business hours.

Hubballi-Dharwad: Policing key for success

The move is likely to click in Hubballi-Dharwad, which is an education hub and commercial city. Business establishment owners, especially hoteliers, felt that keeping markets open will help in many ways. Traffic on market roads will come down, harassment will be curbed, students and citizens like patients will benefit. On the flip side, police expect crime rate to go up, and pose challenges to policing.

Ballari: Will help overcome Covid effect

B Maharudra Gowda, president, Chamber of Commerce, Ballari, said the decision will help the tourism and transport industry, among others.

Rathana Prabha Reddy, a hotel owner, said after the pandemic, the hotel business was under loss and thanked the government for the decision to allow them to open till 1am. However, he said success will depend on security and law and order situation.

Ballari Superintendent Ranjith Kumar Bandaru said police beats will be increased.

(Inputs by Rishita Khanna in Bengaluru, Ramakrishna Badseshi in Kalaburagi, Firoz Rozindar in Vijayapura, Pramodkumar Vaidya in Hubballi, BK Lakshmikanth in Mysuru, Ramachandra V Gunari in Shivamoga, Kiran Balannanavar in Ballari and Tushar A Majukar in Belagavi)

BATTLE OF GRANDSONS

Hassan: Cong may pitch Shreyas Patel against Prajwal

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

HASSAN is set to witness a battle of the grandsons of two stalwarts in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. The Congress high command is likely to clear the name of former MP late G Puttaswamy Gowda's grandson Shreyas M Patel, and pitch him against former PM HD Deve Gowda's grandson and incumbent MP Prajwal Revanna, according to sources.

More importantly, Shreyas is a relative of DCM and KPCC president DK Shivakumar.

Puttaswamy Gowda had defeated Deve Gowda in the 1999 LS polls, and Shreyas missed winning Holenarasipura assembly seat in the May 2023 polls by a whisker. Up against Deve Gowda's son HD Revanna, Shreyas bagged 84,951 (45.81 per cent) votes against Revanna's 88,108 (47.51 pc).

Impressed by his performance, the Congress has chalked out a plan to field Shreyas, with the hope that a section of Vokkaligas, majority of Dalits, minorities and Veerashaiva Lingayats would vote against the Gowda clan.

District minister KN Rajanna, a staunch supporter of CM Siddaramaiah, and Gowda's bete noire, has proposed Shreyas' name, and the high command is likely to clear it in the first list, sources said.

BJP leaders in Hassan, including former Hassan MLA Preetham Gowda, have already started waging a war against the Gowda clan, especially Revanna's family. Revanna's second son Dr Suraj Revanna is also the MLC from local bodies of the district.

The Gowda clan may have been ruling the roost in Hassan politics, but leaders of rival parties are aiming to wrest the district from the family's clutches. The Congress is looking to capitalise on the situation, and CM Siddaramaiah has deployed Rajanna to prepare the ground for a good battle.

"Shreyas has pedigree and fire in the belly to emerge as a Vokkaliga community leader in the district. He is also on good terms with the rest of the communities and their leaders, including Dalits. He fits the bill to take on the Gowda clan," a Congress leader observed. His father Mahesh died early and mother SG Anupama had contested unsuccessfully against Revanna in the past. Now, Shreyas will continue the legacy of his grandfather Puttaswamy Gowda.

If the survey finds that the going will be tough for Prajwal Revanna, JDS-BJP alliance leaders will have second thoughts about fielding him, a source said.

Shreyas has pedigree and fire in the belly to emerge as a Vokkaliga community leader in the district. He fits the bill to take on the Gowda clan — Congress leader

Postal dept starts registrations for PM's solar rooftop scheme

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

POSTAL employees across Karnataka Postal Circle were busy at work even on Sunday, enrolling households interested in registering under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. Launched on February 15 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the scheme provides households with subsidy to install solar panels on their roofs. The target is to cover 1 crore houses across the country.

Chief Postmaster General (CPMG), Karnataka Postal Circle, S Rajendra Kumar told TNIE, "We launched it a couple of days ago across our network. We are targeting 5 lakh households and have covered roughly 20,000 houses so far.

Postal employees during a registration campaign at Dandeli in Uttara Kannada

People can register at post offices, Gram Dak Sevaks or approach our post men/women who are carrying out a door-to-door survey in this connection. An electricity bill generated within the last six months is mandatory."

Postal staff across the state worked during the weekend too to enrol as many households as possible, he added. This is part of an all-India campaign carried out by India Post. The scheme, operated by the Centre's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, will ensure eco-friendly power generation in homes across the country, he added. The scheme is expected to save the government Rs 75,000 crore annually in electricity costs, states the official website of the ministry. People stand to get 40% subsidy to install solar panels as well as 300 units of free electricity per month.

The CPMG said, "Those who generate additional electricity can monetise them by feeding them back to the grid."

'Mothers of Our Constitution' postcards

The Postal Circle is also releasing 15 picture post cards billed 'Mothers of Our Constitution' to mark Women's Day. The contribution of women members of the Constituent Assembly is being recognized this year that marks the 75th year of adoption of the Constitution.

"The fact that 15 women contributed to the making of the Constitution of India is quite significant. Although women constituted only 3.85% of the Constituent Assembly of 389 members, their qualitative contribution has been commendable. They had emerged from varying cultural backgrounds, geographically spread all over the country - four of them were from Uttar Pradesh, three from Kerala and one each from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, East Bengal (Bangladesh), West Bengal, Assam, Gujarat, Haryana and Punjab," the CPMG said.

Indian Embassy in touch with Russian officials: EAM to Kharge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kalaburagi

MINISTER of External Affairs S Jaishankar has informed Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, who is also the AICC president, that the Indian Embassy in Moscow has taken up the issue of four Indians (three from Kalaburagi and one from Telangana) stranded in Russia with the authorities there. Kharge had written to Jaishankar in this regard on February 22.

Jaishankar stated in his letter dated February 27 (A copy of which is available with *The New Indian Express*) that the issue remains a high priority. Jaishankar has assured Kharge that the Indian government will always ensure the safety, security, and welfare of its citizens abroad. Jaishankar further stated that he has instructed the Indian Embassy in Moscow to contact the Russian authorities concerned to secure the early return of the Indian citizens. The Foreign Secretary also took up this issue with the Russian Ambassador in New Delhi.

"In order to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the future, the government has advised Indian citizens to stay away from the conflict zones. As a result of sustained assiduous efforts, we have been able to ensure the return of some Indian citizens," Jaishankar added in his letter.

BJP panel finalises new faces for polls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE BJP Karnataka Election Management Committee on Sunday shortlisted the party's candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, giving place to over a dozen new faces apart from incumbent MPs who fit the bill. According to sources, the name of Dr C N Manjunath, former director of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research and son-in-law of former PM HD Deve Gowda, has been proposed for Bengaluru Rural LS seat to defeat sitting Congress MP D K Suresh, younger brother of DCM D K Shivakumar.

The meeting, which was held under the chairmanship of party state president B Y Vijayendra, discussed the candidates for the 28 seats of the state. The new names for Bengaluru North and Chamarajanagar, as sitting MPs D V Sadananda Gowda and V Srinivas Prasad announcing their retirement, have been proposed.

The meeting arrived at a decision to nominate certain sitting MPs, including Union ministers Pralhad Joshi from Hubballi-Dharwad and Shobha Karandlaje from Udupi-Chikkamagaluru. For Tumakuru, former minister V Somanna and former CM Jagadish Shettar for Belagavi, apart from a new face, have been shortlisted, according to sources. The name of former RDPR minister K S Eshwarappa's son K E Kanthesh and that of Yelahanka MLA S R Vishwanath's son Alok Vishwanath also came up for discussion.

The list will be sent to the party's high command and it is likely to be announced in a week. "In the wake of the Lok Sabha elections, we had a meeting of the Election Management Committee. We had sent two observers to all the Lok Sabha constituencies of the state for two or three days. We put forth the names that came from the observers and it was decided to send the list to the party high command," said Vijayendra.

BJP election in-charge for Karnataka Radhamohan Das Agarwal, parliamentary board member and former CM Yediurappa, former CMs Basavaraj Bommai and D V Sadananda Gowda, former ministers K S Eshwarappa, B Sriramulu, Govind Karjol, Leader of Opposition R Ashoka and leaders Dr C N Aswath Narayan and C T Ravi were also present.

Somanna reconciles with BSY

Former minister V Somanna, an aspirant from Tumakuru, met former CM B S Yediyurappa at the latter's residence in Bengaluru on Saturday evening. He along with former CM Jagadish Shettar, and Tumakuru MP G S Basavaraju held discussion over LS polls. Somanna was sulking after Vijayendra was made BJP state chief.

Jagan may lose big time in Andhra, says Prashant Kishor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Hyderabad

ACE political strategist Prashant Kishor, who played a key role in YSRC chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's massive victory in 2019, has predicted that the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister is going to lose big in the ensuing assembly elections.

Prashant was speaking on the pre-election scenarios in India at the Hyderabad Dialogues – an initiative of TNIE – here Sunday. Asked about his views on Jagan and TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu's prospects, he offered the opinion that, even with all the usual caveats about calling an election, "I see this whole assumption that Jagan is too strong to be defeated has no legs. He is on a sticky wicket. He is going downhill... I have no data or first-hand experience (of the political situation in AP) but my gut is telling me that he is losing big. Not just losing... but losing big."

Prashant, who is now on his own Jan Suraaj Abhiyan in Bihar and away from professional political strategising, offered an interesting rationale for his conclusion: that Jagan has made a mistake in putting all eggs in one basket. "It is a function of how he ran the state. Andhra would probably fall in the middle income category. If you are not talking about capital creation and new infrastructure but only focusing on the distribution side in a middle income state, you are taking a big strategic risk. His government has given more priority to giving doles and Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) even at the cost of incurring a lot of additional debt. This might work in a low income state but in Andhra, where urbanisation is more than 50 per cent, and when your government is seen only in terms of the free benefit you are giving to the masses, it may not. Because 50 per cent (of the population) are not even eligible and you are not even reaching them."

Prashant Kishor speaking at Hyderabad Dialogues, an initiative of TNIE

> *I see this whole assumption that Jagan is too strong to be defeated has no legs. He is on a sticky wicket. He is going downhill. Not just losing... but losing big*
>
> Prashant Kishor

Prashant Kishor met TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu a few months back in Vijayawada. Asked about what transpired at the meeting, he replied that he had spent three hours holding talks with the former chief minister but reiterated that he was in no way associated with the party. Elaborating further on Andhra, he referred to Jagan's portrayal of the coming elections as a class battle and felt it wasn't the right pitch. "You can talk about a class battle in Bihar or Jharkhand, but you can't in Tamil Nadu, Telangana or AP. It can't be based on DBT because youth look for jobs, not a thousand-rupees benefit. They are looking for more factories, better roads, medical and educational facilities. So, if I am an Andhraite, would I take pride in the hope that Vijayawada or Vizag is coming up as the future city? I will feel inferior to my counterpart in Chennai, Kochi or Hyderabad. It is not difficult to make a prediction that it is very difficult for Jagan to make a comeback."

He cited another data point: that no politician has gone on to win three consecutive elections in southern states and, technically, no one has gone on to win and even complete two consecutive terms. He said this explains something about the society. "A middle income society looks for doles but its people are aspirational on a relative basis."

At the same time, Prashant felt if the TDP wins, it could be more because of the work not done by Jagan and felt the YSRC chief, with the kind of mandate he secured in 2019 and his age, could have gone on to become one of the most powerful leaders in the south had he not boxed himself into the state and seen himself as a provider instead of meeting the aspirations of the people. On Jagan's sister YS Sharmila's anointment as the State Congress chief, the strategist felt it may not work for the party as it is seen as the one that divided the original unified Andhra Pradesh state.

Revanth to accompany PM during TS visit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

TELANGANA Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy will receive Prime Minister Narendra Modi and accompany him to official programmes during his visit to the state from Monday. The PM is scheduled to lay foundation stones and inaugurate various developmental works, estimated at Rs 56,000 crore, in Adilabad on Monday.

This was announced by Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Dansari Anasuya at a press conference at the Penganga Bhavan in Adilabad on Sunday. Sharing the details, she said the prime minister will inaugurate the newly electrified railway line from Ambari to Adilabad and Pipalkhuti as well as lay the foundation stone for NTPC's 800 MW (Unit-2) of Telangana Super Thermal Power Project.

Also, he will lay the foundation stone for two national highways -- NH 353B and NH 163 – connecting Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. The total cost of these projects is estimated to be ₹56,000 crore. Asserting that coordination between the state government and Centre is essential for the development of Telangana, Anasuya said though the Congress and the BJP differ on ideology, they maintain a professional relationship for the betterment of the state.

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy | EXPRESS

The minister pointed out that the state government will submit a report to the PM on the requirements for the erstwhile Adilabad district and request support from the Centre. She added that Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy and Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan are also expected to take part in the programmes. Apart from official programmes, the prime minister is expected to address a public meeting in Adilabad.

STUDENT DEATH

'Tortured for hours, belts, cables used'

ENS @Kalpetta

The remand report of the six students arrested on February 29 in connection with the death of JS Sidharthan, a student of the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Pookode, mentioned the possibility of murder.

The report submitted by the police at the Judicial First Class Magistrate Court, Kalpetta, also detailed the hours-long torture using belts and cable wires and the mob trial that Sidharthan underwent at the hands of the accused in the college hostel on February 16. "The investigation team has to conduct an in-depth investigation to check the possibility of murder," stated the report. According to the report, the accused students called Sidharthan, who was on his way home, was called back to the hostel to settle a complaint filed against him by a female student. On reaching the hostel, Sidharthan faced a mob trial and gruesome torture for hours.

EXPRESS READ

Worker killed in drunken brawl

Chennai: A migrant worker was hacked to death in a drunken brawl at Nandambakkam on Saturday. The deceased, Mintu (25) of Uttar Pradesh, was working at a construction site in Nandambakkam. "On Saturday night, Mintu was consuming liquor with his friend and co-worker Vikram (24). An argument broke out and in a fit of rage, Vikram stabbed Mintu to death," police said. Mintu's body was found later by other workers.

Man shot dead near Brahmavara

Udupi:A 38-year-old man was shot dead by unidentified assailants at Hanehalli near Brahmavara in Udupi on Saturday night. The victim has been identified as Krishna. It is said that four gunshots were fired. The motive behind the murder is being investigated. SP Dr Arun K said the FSL report will confirm the number of shots fired and other details. No suspects have been named in the case so far and efforts are on to trace the culprits.

IN THE COMMERCIAL COURT AT BENGALURU
COM. A.P. No. 129 OF 2023
Between: M/s Sukee Constructions Pvt. Ltd ...Plaintiff
And: Late S.P. Mittalal & Others ...Defendants
SUMMONS TO RESPONDENTS No. 1(a), 1(b), 2, 3, 4 and 5
1. Vinod Kumar, Son of late Chandrakala & Rickab Chan Dhoka, Aged about 47 years No.47, Mambalan High Road, T Nagar, Chennai - 17.
2. Neeta Kumarai Mutha, Daughter of late Chandrakala & Rickab Chand Dhoka, Aged about 44 years, No.123, Mambalan High Road, T Nagar, Chennai - 17.
3. S.M. Lalit Jain, Son of Mittalal, Aged 59 years R/at No.914, 2nd Floor, Nagarthpet, Bangalore 560 002.
4. S.M. Suresh Kumar, Son of Mittalal, Aged about 50 years, Shop No.6, MSMSS Marketing Avenue Road, Bangalore - 560 002.
5. S.M. Nirmal Kumar, Son of Mittalal, Aged about 60 years, R/at No.914, 2nd Floor, Nagarthpet, Bangalore - 560 002.
6. S.M. Sajjan Raj, Son of Mittalal, Aged about 54 years, No.31, 2nd Floor, Shanty Kunji, Chougalli Siddana Lane, Cubbonpet, Bangalore - 560 002.
Petitioner has instituted the above Petition seeking a direction to partially set aside the award dated 17th April 2023 passed by the Arbitral Tribunal of Shri Justice Subhash B. Adi, Sole Arbitrator at Arbitration Conciliation Centre, Bengaluru (Domestic & International) in the matter of A.C. No.126/2021 arraigning you as Respondents in so far as claims against you are concerned and remand the matter back to the Tribunal for adjudication on the issues framed.
You are hereby directed to appear before the Commercial Court, Bangalore [CCH:85] on 18th March 2024 at 11 am without fail, either in person or through Advocate to answer the claim. If you fail to appear before the Commercial Court on the said day, you will be placed ex-parte and the case will proceed in accordance with law.
Given under my hand and the seal of this court this the 28th day of February 2024.
By order of the Court, Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Advocates for Petitioner: Mr. Abhilash Raju V. Mr. Pratik Pany & Ms. Sharada Reddy
209 Swiss Complex, 33 Race Course Road Bangalore - 560 001.

Public Notice
My client, Mrs.KOWSER ASLAM aged about 58 years, wife of S.Mohammed Aslam intend to purchase the schedule property from Mrs. NAJEEBA AMEER wife of Mr.Ameer Pasha residing at No. 77, 2nd Cross, Rajappa Block, J.C.Nagar, Bangalore-560 006. Any persons or institution/s whomsoever have any claim, interest or right over the schedule property may contact me with relevant records to substantiate such claim/s or interest, within 10 days from the date of this publication in the absence of any such claim or objection it will be constructed that there is no objection or claim on the above said property from any corner to my client to proceed with the execution of the sale deed in respect of the schedule property.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY:
A Four BHK residential Apartment/Flat bearing No.SF-201 on the Second Floor presently bearing independent Municipal Corporation No.20/3, PID No.92-30-20/3, having a super built up area of 2950 sq.ft with two reserved car park spaces bearing Nos. SF-201 & 201/A in the basement floor of the multi storied residential Apartment building known as "SHAAN - E - NOOR" constructed on Municipal Corporation No.20 PID No.92-30-20, Old No.23, situated at Millers Road, (1st Cross, Millers Road) Benson Town, Corporation Ward No.92, Bangalore together with 714.80 sq.ft of undivided right title and interest on the said property
HANUMANTHARAYA.H AND ASSOCIATES
Advocates
Office at No.61/B, First Floor,10th Main Road, 4th Block, Near Ramamandira, Rajajinagar, BENGALURU-560 010,
Mobile:- 9741980996
E-mail:- hanumanthu81@gmail.com

QuoteExpress
IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE › NELSON MANDELA

Petronet LNG Limited
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
FOR SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR FOR SOIL FILLING AND RELATED WORK AT PETRONET LNG LTD, KOCHI
Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) invites bids from experienced and financially sound contractors for Soil filling and related work at PETRONET LNG LTD, KOCHI (Kerala).
Interested parties are requested to visit our website www.petronetlng.in for detailed eligibility criteria along with other necessary details for issuance of tender document.
Note: PLL reserves the right not to issue the tender document and/or accept or reject any or all the bids at any stage of the process and/or modify the process without assigning any reasons on its sole discretion.
No separate notification w.r.t. this tender shall be issued in press. Interested parties to regularly visit aforesaid PLL website for any updates.
Sr. Manager (C&P)
PETRONET LNG LIMITED
Survey No-347 (PSEZ), Puthuvypu P.O, Kochi - 682508, Kerala, India.
Tel: No.- 0484-2757701 / 2
Email : cnp_kochi@petronetlng.in; shriranga@petronetlng.in

Government of Karnataka
(PWD Division Raichur)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION RAICHUR
Telephone No. : 08532-225778 & 234747
KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION -(KW- 1, 3 & 4)
THESE WORKS ARE GENARAL SC & ST CONTRACTORS
1) Notification No & Date: PWD/RDN/TS-4/TN/2023-24/4116 Date: 27-02-2024 2) Name of work's: Raichur District Total 21 work's Raichur, Manvi, Deodurga & Sindhanur taluk Different types of Buildings & Road Maintainance works. 3) Amount of works Min Rs. 169278.19 Max Rs. 37517932.52 4) EMD Amount : Min Rs. 3200.00 Max Rs. 563000.00 5) Period (including Manson) Min 1 (One) Month Max 11 (Eleven) Months 6) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tender: 11/03/2024 16:00:00 7) Date and Time for Opening of Tender: 12/03/2024 16:30:00
For More details visit this website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/
SD/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PWD Division, RAICHUR.
DIP/RCR/569/KSMC&A/Job No.566/2023-24

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
DAVANAGERE DIVISION: DAVANAGERE.
No.KST/DVG/TR/COM/ 3654 /2023-24 Date: 02.03.2024
"Short-Term e-Tender / Negotiation: 07/2023-24"
(e-Tender Through e-Procurement Portal Only)
Short-Term e-Tender is being called for the following Commercial stalls by KSRTC, Davanagere Division i.e. Smart city DAVANAGERE Bus Stand Medical shop stall no-15, Pizza burger corner stall no-16 and Lodge stall no-19 and Beturu Road ksrtc bus stand General stall no-3, General stall no-6 (P.H), Refreshment room stall no-7, General stall no-9, and Two and Four wheeler parking stall no-11 through e-Procurement Portal.
Negotiation is being called Malebennuru Bus Stand General Stall No-01.
Through e-Procurement Portal from Date:04.03.2024 Download The document through e-Procurement Website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and https://ksrtc.karnataka.gov.in Last Date for closing Application e-Tender on: 11.03.2024 at 17.00 P.M.
For More Information Contact Division Office, KSRTC, Davanagere-577 002 in office hours. Contact Details: Divisional Traffic Officer - 7760990452, Assistant Traffic superintendent - 7022030183
Sd/- Sr.Divisional Controller, KSRTC,
DIPR/DD-C.P/4019/KSMCA/2023-24 Davanagere Division.

Office of the DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION AND EX-OFFICIO , DISTRICT PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR, SAMAGRA SHIKSHANA KAARNATAKA RAICHUR
No: sskr/a2/ Innovatin Lab/ /2023-24 Date: 01.03.2024
PAPER NOTIFICATION
Tender has been invited for the year 2023-24 to establish Avishkar Innovative Lab in 8 Karnataka Public Schools and 4 Adarsha Vidyalaya schools of Raichur district through the e-procurement portal https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in . Schedule for the tender is as below. Application can be obtained/applied from : 02/03/2024, Last date for applying the tender :15/03/2024, Pre-mid meeting Date and Venue: 06/03/2024 at 11.30 am Office of DDPI&Ex- officio, SSK, Azad Nagar, Raichur, Amount put to Tender: 93,68,133/-
SD/- DDPI & Ex-Officio,
District Project Co-ordinator,
SSK,Raichur
DIP/RCR/560/KSMC&A/Job No.557/2023-24

भारतीय पैकेजिंग संस्थान
Indian Institute of Packaging
RECRUITMENT NOTICE- IIP-01/2024
The Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP) is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India having its primary functions as Training and Education, Laboratory Testing and Quality evaluation, Consultancy, Research and development etc. with its' headquarter in Mumbai and other regional offices. IIP invites applications for filling up of the post of DIRECTOR under Direct Recruitment:

Sr. No.	Name of Post	Pay Level	No. of Vacancies
1	Director	Pay Level-14	01

Educational Qualifications:
Essential:
PhD in subject of relevance to packaging with at least 15 years of experience in packaging and allied sector or Master's degree in Engineering/technology/packaging sector or equivalent with at least 20 years of experience as per detailed terms and conditions prescribed.
Desirable:
a. Minimum 5 Years of administrative experience in responsible position in Government/ Autonomous oragnisation/PSU/Semi Government/Educational Institutions.
b. Candidate should have research work published in leading journals/publications.
Age Limit: Maximum 50 years (Relaxable by 5 years in the case of SC/ST category, 3 years in the case of OBC category and by 5 years for departmental candidates.)
For application forms and detailed advertisement with terms and conditions, please visit the following link
https://www.iip-in.com/iip-careers/current-openings.aspx
Last Date for receiving Application: 03rd April 2024
Sd/-
Assistant Director - Establishment
भर्ती सूचना- आईआईपी-01/2024
भारतीय पैकेजिंग संस्थान (आईआईपी), वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अंतर्गत एक स्वायत्त शासी संस्था है, जिनके द्वारा प्रशिक्षण और शिक्षा, प्रयोगशाला परीक्षण और गुणवत्ता मूल्यांकन, परामर्श, अनुसंधान और विकास आदि जैसे प्राथमिक कार्य किये जाते है और जिनका मुख्यालय मुंबई में है और उनके अन्य क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय है। आईआईपीके द्वारा सीधी भर्ती के तहत निदेशक पद को भरने के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किये जा रहे है।:

क्रम संख्या	पदनाम	वेतन स्तर	रिक्तियों की संख्या
1	निदेशक	वेतन स्तर-14	01

शैक्षिक योग्यता:
आवश्यकता :
निर्धारित विस्तृत नियमों और शर्तों के अनुसार, पैकेजिंग संबद्ध विषय में पीएचडी और पैकेजिंग में और संबद्ध क्षेत्र में कम से कम 15 वर्षों का अनुभव या इंजीनियरिंग/प्रौद्योगिकी/पैकेजिंग क्षेत्र में मास्टर डिग्री या समतुल्य डिग्री और कम से कम 20 वर्षों का समकक्ष अनुभव ।
वांछित :
अ. सरकारी/स्वायत्त संगठन/पीएसयू/अर्ध सरकारी/शैक्षणिक संस्थानों में जिम्मेदार पद पर न्यूनतम 5 वर्ष का प्रशासनिक अनुभव।
ब. उम्मीदवार का शोधकार्य प्रमुख पत्रिकाओं/प्रकाशनों में प्रकाशित होना चाहिए ।
आयु सीमा: अधिकतम 50 वर्ष (एससी/एसटी प्रवर्ग में 5 वर्ष, ओबीसी प्रवर्ग में 3 वर्ष और विभागीय उम्मीदवारों के लिए 5 वर्ष शिथिलक्षम) ।
आवेदन पत्र और नियम एवं शर्तों के साथ विस्तृत विज्ञापन के लिए, कृपया निम्नलिखित लिंक पर जाएं :
https://www.iip-in.com/iip-careers/current-openings.aspx
आवेदन प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि : 03 अप्रैल 2024
दस्त/-
सहायक निदेशक – स्थापना

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client V. THYAGARAJ, S/o Venkataramachar .L, aged about 54 years, R/at Byraveshwara Nilaya, 1st Floor, Near Charan Hospital, 6th Main Road, Roysingh Layout, Hosakote - 562 114, he has lost original Three Registered Sale Deeds (i) Dt: 17.12.1951 Vide Document No.1938/1951, (ii) Dt: 05.12.1951 Vide Document No.1939/1951 & (iii) Dt: 12.08.1960 Vide Document No.2011/1960 and all the three registered sale deed Registered at Denkanikottai Sub-Registrar, Tamil Nadu and the said documents are registered in my grandfather name Sri. Lakshmananchari, S/o Krishnachari. The above said three documents have been lost in the above stated address. In this regard I have lodged police complaint before the Hosakote Police Station dated 02.03.2024 and the same has been registered in GSC.NO.P00253240600312. Hence, the public are hereby informed that if any one find the said original documents as stated above, they may be returned to my client or to my address, for the suitable rewarded.
S.K. PRAKASH MURTHY, Advocate
1st Floor, Vijyasree Building, 5th A Cross, I.B. Road, Hoskote-562114. Mob:9880840654
Date: 02-03-2024

Your Guide to Spicy living
INDULGE Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION
Head Office, 12, THAMBUSAMY ROAD, KILPAUK, CHENNAI-600 010
Phone No. 044 - 26426773 Email id. tncsc.tn@nic.in
CIN:U15137TN1972SGC006157
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-TENDER No. BS4/048800/2023/ TNCSC/23-24 Date:01.03.2024
Online e-tender invited for the "Purchase of 1,34,000 Nos. of 'Y' cone as per specifications.
Complete e-tender document can be viewed and downloaded through https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app from 04.03.2024 @ 06.50 P.M.
The bidders have to participate only online bidding with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III
Last Date for Online Submission: 18.03.2024, up to 11.30 A.M.
Managing Director
DIPR/1331/TENDER/2024

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDERS (Only through KPP portal)
BWSSB invites tenders in Two Stage tender system from registered Agencies for the following works.
Office of the Chief Engineer (Project) 3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bangalore-560 009.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount
	IFT No.:BWSSB/CE(P)/ACE(Cstr&DCW)/TA/1918/2023-24 Dated 02.03.2024	
1.	Procurement of 60Nos of 300mm dia Removable Mechanism Type Water Meters conforming to IS:2373/1981 Or ISO:4064/1/EEC/MID (2nd Call)	Rs.1,51,37,940/- / Rs.2,28,000/-

For the above work the last date for submission of completed tender documents is on 11.03.2024 before 15:00 Hrs. Technical Tender will be opened on 12.03.2024 at 16:00 Hrs.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Project)
Office of the Chief Engineer (East) 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bangalore-560 009.

	IFT No.:BWSSB/EIC/CE(E)/ACE(E)-I/DCE(M)-1/TA(E)/11260/2023-24 Dated 02.03.2024	
2.	Providing, Laying & linking 450x300 mm dia MS Pipe line with fixing 450 mm dia & 300 mm dia control valve from TC Palya Signal to Govt School, Old Madras Road, Medhalli Coming under Basavanapura Service Station of AEE E2-4 Sub-Division	Rs.222.41 Lakhs / Rs.3.94 Lakhs

For the above work the last date for submission of completed tender documents is on 19.03.2024 upto 16:00 Hrs. Technical Tender will be opened on 20.03.2024 after 16:00 Hrs.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (East)
The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/4024/KAVITA/23-24

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Division Ballari
Email: ee_pwdbellary@yahoo.com Telephone No: 08392 -266123
No: EE/PWD/BD/TS-5/2023-24/5282 Dated : 01-03-2024
Short Term Tender Notification (Two Cover Sysytem)
The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division, Ballari invites the tenders for the works detailed in the table from the eligible contractors registered in Karnataka Public Works Department, through KPP portal. Two cover tender procedure as per KPPP Act shall be followed. The tender documents can be downloaded through the web-site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ For any additional information the tenderers may contact the office of the undersigned during office working hours. TABLE

Sl No	Details of Works	Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakhs)
1)	PWD/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT9329	181.00
2)	PWD/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT9380	181.00
3)	PWD/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT9363	185.00
4)	PWD/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT9343	185.00
5)	PWD/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT6163	181.00
6)	PWD/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT6420	181.00
7)	PWD/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT9267	178.00
8)	PWD/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT9268	183.00

Note: Any changes either in tender dates or any other conditions, tenderers can view in KPP Portal. No saperate notification will be published in this system.
1) Pre Bid Meetin Date 04-03-2024 upto 11.00 hrs. 2) Last dates for queries (through KPP portal 07-03-2024 upto 12.00 hrs. 3) Last date for submission of tenders through KPP portal 11-03-2024 upto 16.00 hrs. 4) Date and time of opening of Technical Bids 12-03-2024 at 16.30 hrs in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
DIPR/Ballari/947/KSMCA/2023-24 PWD Division, Ballari.

EDITORIAL

I can promise you that women working together—linked, informed and educated—can bring peace and prosperity to the foresaken planet

Isabel Allende

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

BJP BEGINS LOK SABHA ELECTION SPRINT EARLY WITH FIRST LIST

WEEKS before the Lok Sabha election schedule is to be announced, the BJP put out its first list of 195 candidates, dropping more than 30 sitting MPs, including loose cannons, and rewarding good performers. Nowhere was the purge more stark than in Delhi where only one of the five names announced, Bhojpuri actor-turned-politician Manoj Tiwari, managed to get a shot at a repeat mandate. The spring cleaning was anyway necessitated as the index of opposition unity is the highest in Delhi this time around.

Both the AAP and the Congress have joined forces to try and deny the BJP the clean sweep it registered in 2019. The hypothesis of opposition unity blowing away the BJP despite the Modi factor because of their combined superior vote percentage, which is the foundational concept of the INDIA bloc, will be subjected to rigorous test. Rabble-rouser Ramesh Bidhuri, who used intemperate language against BSP MP Danish Ali in Parliament, was culled. Another face of hard Hindutva who hit the headlines for all the wrong reasons, Sadhvi Pragya Thakur, was dropped from Bhopal. It sent a no-nonsense message of discipline and healthy parliamentary culture among the ranks. Union minister Meenakshi Lekhi made way for late Sushma Swaraj's daughter Bansuri in New Delhi. What lawyer Bansuri Swaraj did to earn the seat and whether or not it was parivarvad (nepotism)—a charge the BJP keeps flinging at the opposition—is a question both she and the party will have to convincingly respond to.

An equally riveting contest has been set up in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram with the BJP fielding Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar from the seat held by sitting Congress MP Shashi Tharoor. Anil Antony, son of Congress stalwart A K Antony, is among the 47 candidates in the list who are under 50. By announcing its first list early, the BJP grabbed the first-mover advantage, displaying the confidence of a gladiator against a rag-tag coalition that is yet to fully get its act together. Smriti Irani has been repeated from Amethi where the buzz is Rahul Gandhi would be her opponent. But caught up as he is in his own mistimed yatra, the prince doesn't resemble a general marshalling his forces for what he claims is a war to save the life force of democracy. Whether or not the BJP achieves its self-set target of 370, it has already begun the sprint while the opponents are yet to get set and go.

BJP-AIADMK TIFF MAY SPLIT OPPN VOTES, HELP DMK

POLITICAL circles in Tamil Nadu are abuzz in the aftermath of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the state last week (he returns on Monday). Aside from back-and-forth blame game between the BJP and the ruling DMK, the significance of the PM's fulsome praise of AIADMK leaders J Jayalalithaa and M G Ramachandran was hard to miss. The AIADMK ended its uneasy alliance with the BJP, which had survived the 2019 parliamentary election and the 2021 Assembly polls, last September. The move was strategic on the part of the Dravidian major. Amid a dominant discourse positioning the ethos of the Dravidian movement against that of the BJP and RSS, the AIADMK had lost ground among minorities and was targeted by the DMK as subservient to the BJP. Its cadres too found the relationship a strain. The BJP did make efforts to preserve the relationship as the going would no doubt be easier with an ally with an established vote bank (that has not crumbled after Jayalalithaa's death). However, state chief K Annamalai clearly has the BJP's long-term interests in mind when he made the alliance untenable from the AIADMK's perspective by criticising the late leader.

In the long-term, if the BJP wants to become a dominant force in Tamil Nadu, it must stand on its own. Why, then, the praise for the AIADMK's late leaders? This is not the first time that Modi has sought to attract votes from followers of a political leader belonging to another party—his praise of late Congress giant K Kamaraj comes to mind. The PM was clearly attempting to peel off votes from the AIADMK by appealing to their followers' love for the late leaders. The AIADMK has levelled this charge against the BJP and even challenged it to field its Tamil ministers (Nirmala Sitharaman, L Murugan and S Jaishankar, all Rajya Sabha members) in TN. The state BJP has also been tom-tomming its recruitment of some members of the AIADMK and other parties (including sitting Congress MLA Vijayadharani), promising big names would be joining soon. Whether these attempts will help the party raise its vote share from around 3 percent in 2019 to double digits, remains to be seen. However, all these developments are only likely to strengthen the DMK's performance—despite a threat of anti-incumbency—by splitting opposition votes.

QUICK TAKE

CALL OF POLITICAL NATURE

THE disturbing trend of judges choosing politics over judiciary is not waning anytime soon. On Sunday, Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay of the Calcutta High Court announced he would soon resign his judgeship and join politics. The judge's career has not been short on controversies. Just over a month ago, the Supreme Court admonished him for overruling the decision of a division bench and for accusing a fellow judge. It is one thing for his critics to accuse him of political bias, but quite another for Justice Gangopadhyay to openly say his move follows a "challenge" Trinamool leaders have thrown at him. His action serves neither politics, nor justice.

Research says some crucial phases in AI value chain may be impacted by human biases. There are 'de-biasing' techniques, but their effectiveness is not guaranteed

AI DEVELOPERS MUST KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR BIAS

URVASHI ANEJA
Founder & Director, Digital Futures Lab

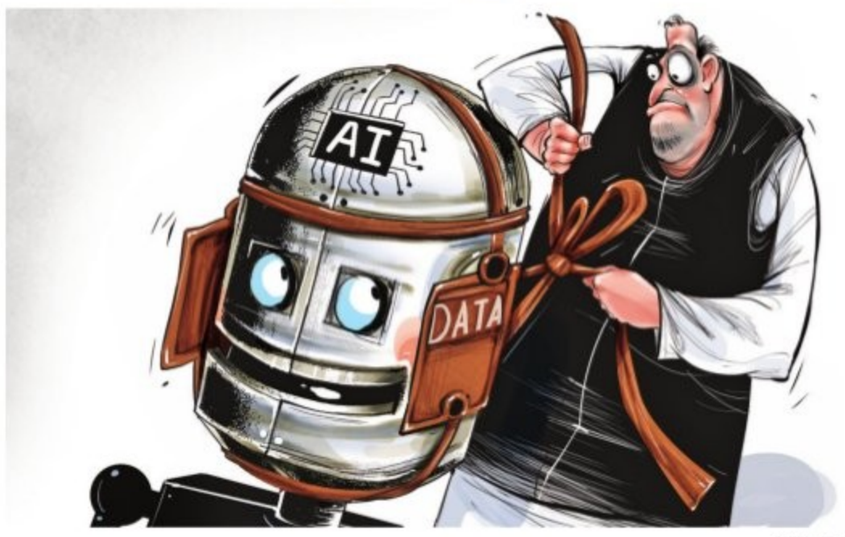
SASHA JOHN
Research Associate, Digital Futures Lab

IN the past few months, India has seen the release of a new Marathi Large Language Model (LLM), a Telugu LLM, two Kannada LLMs. Besides, there are general Indic language models in the works too. There is a huge push to utilise these language models to build population-scale technology interventions in sectors like education, healthcare, and finance. But, given what we already know about language models' biased outputs—which have suggested women in lab coats might just be cleaners and have propagated race-based medicine—the risk of amplifying existing biases is high. Technical mitigation strategies might not be enough to address what is fundamentally an issue of biased data. And if that is the case, we need to be honest about what AI can and should do for us.

Data as a source of bias in AI has been extensively covered, as AI systems are only as good as the data they are trained on. Data can be biased in two ways. First, the world is biased and so data will reflect that, and second data can be incomplete and, therefore, not entirely representative of reality. Without any corrections for quality and skew, AI models trained on biased data and deployed in high-stakes interventions can have grave consequences. The Center for Studies on Public Security and Citizenship in Brazil found that more than 90 percent of individuals arrested based on facial recognition software (FRS) were Black—a majority population victimised by systemic racism in the country. If FRS for crime were deployed in India, trained on National Criminal Record Bureau data, they might contribute to the increased incarceration of Dalits and Muslims, who make up 66 percent of the imprisoned and undertrial population.

Bias can also creep into data in other ways. What is often ignored in the discussion around AI is the extensive assembly line of people that make such technology possible. From the curators of the training data corpus, to the annotators preparing the data for model training, to the developers optimising the model and its parameters for a specific use-case, to the people responsible for the deployment of the technology in its application form, the AI value chain is a lot more human-resource intensive than we are made to believe it is.

A crucial phase in the AI value chain, data annotation, involves labelling data with useful information of its contents to train the AI model, so that it can interpret and process the data. Typically involving severely under-paid workers in certain parts of the majority world, like Kenya, Pakistan and India, data annotation can get highly subjective. Recent research suggests data annotation may be impacted by the gender of the annotator, their race, and their proximity to the data that is being annotated (based on their identity).



SOURAV ROY

In a 2021 academic study involving 291 racially-diverse annotators from Amazon, Mechanical Turk and college classrooms, researchers found that, depending on the topic covered, race played a role in how annotators labelled racially-charged tweets. On the topic of police brutality, a tweet saying, "Lorenzo Clerkley, a 14-year-old black kid who was with friends playing with a BB gun in broad daylight was shot 4 times by an officer after being given 0.6 second warnings" was considered "moderately positive" by White raters but, on average, considered "neutral" by non-White raters. Such subjectivities are bound to seep through, at the level of annotation, algorithm optimisation, and application design because humans (and their biases) make up a core part of AI. The fix for bias is not straightforward and not foolproof. While 'de-biasing' strategies exist, there is no guarantee that the model, or the humans in the loop, will abide by those parameters—and if they do, abide in a way that makes sense. Recently, Google took down its AI image generator, Gemini, after netizens pointed out that the model generates "woke" images of Black men and non-white women when asked to provide images of a pope or a Founding Father of America. In an attempt to preempt how users might react to historically accurate images, Google tried to get ahead by employing de-biasing techniques that would produce images that "erred towards [a] 'dream world' approach". The issue with that is, outside of a historically inaccurate, innocent image of a Black pope, you might also get racially diverse Nazis.

Former co-lead of Ethical AI at Google and Chief Ethics Scientist at Hugging Face, Margaret Mitchell offered that Google probably "[added] ethnic diversity terms to user prompts 'under-the-hood'", so that the range of photos generated would be diverse. According to Mitchell, Google could have also tweaked the model to prioritise showing users images with darker skin tones. Google's attempts at de-biasing the model backfired because these are "post-hoc solutions" implemented after the model has been trained, neglecting the data issue.

Other de-biasing strategies include augmenting training data with counterfactual data, like changing "The doctor is a man." to "The doctor is a woman." in the original dataset and fine-tuning the model; de-biasing word embeddings, i.e. the associations between representations of words (like the association between 'woman' and 'housework', for example); and reducing bias amplification in algorithms, which sets constraints around a model's optimisation function to course-correct for existing bias. While these de-biasing strategies attempt to target various parts of the model and its outputs, they might not be enough. Research suggests that these strategies seem to work only in limited contexts, merely hide or distort bias (like with Google's Gemini), can add "noise" to the models, and might not even be wholly effective on multilingual (Indic) models. More importantly, these de-biasing strategies tend to circumvent the data issue and go straight to the output issue—as though adding buttercream frosting to a salty cake will save it.

If we are training models on existing data that is biased, and can do little to cut down the various human touch points along the AI value chain, where does that leave us in our endeavour to innovate for tomorrow? Maybe a better question is 'How must we endeavour to innovate for tomorrow?' Perhaps, a more strategic alternative is that we take full ownership of the guarantee of these biases, and their repercussions, and strive to be more discerning and realistic with how we develop and deploy AI.

(Views are personal)

THE SUFFERING THAT LED SOME WOMEN TO BECOME SAINTS

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

MARCH 8 is International Women's Day, which brings its own reflections. Within such a strong culture as Sanatana Dharma it requires great courage for a Hindu woman to claim an individual identity, although the law of the land supports women. Her identity is usually subsumed in her husband's, and society is noticeably wary of widows, divorcees, single women and women who live alone. It is as uncharitable to wives who do not bear sons. Only two other kinds of women are accorded dignity—old women and renunciates. Traditionally, therefore, the only escape route for Hindu women from patriarchal culture was through religion. They could leave home only to become saints. The common link between such women saints is they usually wished to escape oppression or heartbreak at home. All but the girl-saint, Andal, in the ninth century, who loved Lord Vishnu. She is believed to have disappeared into his image at Srirangam temple.

Her poems to Krishna, the *Tiruppavai* and *Nachiar Tirumozhi*, were major influences on Ramanuja, the tenth-century founder of the casteless Srivaishnava movement, which swept like wildfire over India. Sant Ramanand of North India followed Ramanuja's precepts and Sant Kabir was Ramanand's disciple. The tradition includes deeply influential poets like Jayadeva in the twelfth century and Tulsidas in the sixteenth. This means that little Andal was a person of great influence in Indian history. However, our textbooks do not tell us that a girl child inspired a great and lasting religious and social reform movement. Its most recent affirmation was the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya that follows the Ramanandi tradition. Its motto is, *Jaat-paat poochhe na koi, Hari ko bhaje so Hari ke hoi* (Do not ask about caste, whoever seeks God, becomes God's). Kamleshwar Chaupal, a Dalit, laid the first brick for the Ram Mandir. The Akhil Bharatiya Manga Samaj, representing an ancient Dalit community, brought silver offerings to Ram Lalla and was received with honour at the temple.

Meanwhile, Karaikkaal Ammayar, 'the old lady of Karaikkaal', is the earliest-known Indian woman saint. Her name was Punitavati. She lived in the port city of Karaikkaal in the sixth century, in the old Chola country. She is one of the sixty-three ancient Tamil Shaiva saints, the Nayanmar, whose statues are found in every major Tamil Shaiva temple. The legend goes that Punitavati was a young devotee of Shiva. Her husband, the merchant Paramadattan, refused to believe that she received a magic mango as a mark of Shiva's favour. So, she begged Mahadev for another mango to convince Paramadattan that she spoke the truth. When the second mango appeared, Paramadattan could no longer think of Punitavati as his wife for she now seemed much above him. He moved to another town and married another woman. Punitavati was devastated. She begged

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

> Traditionally, the only escape route for Hindu women from patriarchal culture was through religion. They could leave home only to become women saints. The common link between such saints is that they usually wished to escape oppression or heartbreak at home

Mahadev to turn her at once into an ugly old woman. She went all the way north and reportedly climbed Mount Kailash upside down on her head and hands, for she did not want to disrespectfully put her feet on it. Some interpret this sad story as very Shaiva, that she was liberated from a lifetime of worldly ties and went off to God sooner rather than later—but at what cost.

Besides Karaikal Ammayar, the best-known old woman saint is Avvai or Avvaiyar. The legend goes that when her parents fixed her marriage, young Avvai begged her beloved Ganesha to turn her into an old woman so that she could escape marriage and not waste her human birth as a slave of domesticity. After that, we have Akka Mahadevi of Karnataka in the twelfth century and Lal Ded or Lalleshwari of Kashmir in the mid-fourteenth century. They became 'women saints' after they were severely ill-treated by their in-laws. They left their families and actually wandered about naked in utter rejection of everything that their societies stood for.

Akka was ten when she was married and Lalla was twelve. Lalla had to eat last after everybody else. Her mother-in-law put a big stone on her plate and covered it with a layer of rice to make it look like a large helping. Her husband was of no support at all. Why was the mother-in-law so unkind to a little girl? Perhaps she was unkind because the cultural has sanctioned her the power to be so. But it is too easy to sneer that 'women are women's worst enemies'. If that is so, is it not because their softer natures have been perverted over the ages by the social pressure to produce sons and quietly put up with bad behaviour as their duty? In this discouraging scenario, both Akka and Lalla transferred all their love to Shiva. They wrote poems to Mahadev that people still remember and recite.

Marathi women saints like 13th century Jana Bai, who loved Krishna as Vitthala Pandurang at Pandharipur, did not have an easy time, either. Jana was left as a child at the temple by her starving parents. Sant Namdev rescued her and took her home. She spent her whole life as a servant. Such examples reinforce a pattern that women saints sublimated their suffering and individuality into God-love.

And then, in the 16th century, we have Meera Bai, who suffered extreme persecution from her royal in-laws because of her unswerving love for Krishna. Meera left home too, to take her chances alone although she was only thirty-eight years old. What made her and gently-bred girls like Akka and Lalla reject their prescribed life and wander alone into the aggressive, jeering world of the male gaze? We cannot begin to imagine what they must have endured, or the strength of mind they had to make and keep this terrifying choice. We can understand why Punitavati and Avvai wanted to be turned at once into old women. Keeping this in mind, although greatly improved from a century ago, it will take a collective effort across Hindu society to upgrade its attitude to women while retaining much of value from its vast tradition.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

BJP's strength

Ref: *When mufasas roar, newborn simbas amplify* (March 3). In reality, the real strength of the BJP is the apparent lack of strength and cohesiveness of the INDIA bloc. It also has a leader who knows the pulse of the people. Even if the INDIA bloc performs well in its present strongholds, the Opposition will still be far short of the required number.
Parthasarathy Mandadi, Tirupati

Changes afoot

Ref: *Slow return of the Indian joint family* (March 3). The column captures the changes that are taking place in today's society. Recently, I too witnessed a few elders moving closer to their children's houses. This arrangement will be of help during emergencies and also in attending functions and celebrations together.
K Jayanthi, Chennai

Be alert

Bengaluru blast shows the need to be always alert, especially in crowded areas. Not just the police and the wider security establishment, civilians must also be alert when they see suspicious activities. Then only we can prevent such incidents. Terrorists will always be a threat and they may strike at a time when we least expect them to.
S Ramakrishnasayee, email

Tourist gang-raped

Ref: *Woman biker from Spain gang-raped in J'khand's Dumka* (March 3). I was saddened by the plight of the Spanish couple who were brutally attacked by seven men. Such incidents will tarnish the image of the country at a time when we are trying to stand tall among the community of nations. Foreigners will think twice before coming to India.
M Haneef, Kottayam

Take action

Ref: *Kerala Governor suspends state veterinary varsity VC* (March 3). The issue of ragging has become so widespread because educational institutions have failed to take strict action against perpetrators. Only strong action can deter such incidents in future. College authorities must try to foster an environment where students collaborate in pursuit of academic goals. Harassment should have no place in an academic institution.
Huzaifa Naz, Bengaluru

Gaza stampede

Ref: *Gaza's stampede highlights the desperation of Palestinians (March 3).*
The incident highlights the need for a ceasefire. When there is a ceasefire, the UN can distribute food and aid in an organised manner. There is also a need to improve safety of humanitarian staff working in Gaza.
P Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Piyush Goyal @PiyushGoyal
Those who inherited parties and positions from their parents shy away from mentioning the work of their governments.

Jairam Ramesh @Jairam_Ramesh
No amount of slick PR, social media posts by ministers, and grand announcements can hide the manner in which Indian Railways has been utterly mismanaged during Modi regime.

Satyapal Malik @SatyapalmalikG
All the persons against whom I had complained were involved in corruption, but no action is being taken against them; on the contrary, the government is harassing me unnecessarily.

Harsh Vardhan bows out of politics, returns to medicine

UJWAL JALALI @ New Delhi

A DAY after sitting MP from Delhi's Chandni Chowk, **Dr Harsh Vardhan**, was not named in the BJP's first list for Lok Sabha elctions, he announced his decision to quit politics.

"After over 30 years of a glorious electoral career, during which I won all the five assemblies and two parliamentary elections that I fought with exemplary margins... I finally bow out to return to my roots," Dr Vardhan wrote on X.

Of the seven seats in Delhi, the BJP announced five candidates. Confederation of All India Traders secretary Praveen Khandelwal has been named as the candidate for Chandni Chowk.

A party leader said, "Whatever the top leadership decided is for the betterment of the people. If they have decided to go with Khandelwal Ji, it must be surely a well-thought-out decision."

A year into the pandemic, Vardhan was dropped as health minister in a cabinet reshuffle in 2021.

Reacting to Vardhan quitting politics, BJP leader Subramanian Swamy said, "Dr Harsh Vardhan: You will be back in power and in Parliament because country needs honest educated persons like you."

In the 2019 polls, Vardhan had Congress' Jai Prakash Agarwal. In a detailed "party-exit" post on X, the former health minister recalled his achievements in his "over thirty years of a glorious electoral career" and thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the party workers.

The veteran BJP leader also hinted at returning to his career as an ENT surgeon and resuming duties at his clinic in east Delhi's Krishna Nagar. Acknowledging the RSS's role in his political career, Vardhan said, "It was at the insistence of the then RSS leadership that I jumped into the electoral fray."

PM to intensify campaign for LS polls from today

From March 4 to 6, Modi to visit T'gana, TN, Odisha, Bengal, Bihar

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

AHEAD of the likely announcement for election dates for the 18th Lok Sabha, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is scheduled to attend at least 29 programmes across 12 states and UTs over the next 10 days, starting from March 4.

As a part of inaugurating and laying foundation stones for various projects in line with making India as a "developed nation" by 2047, Modi will visit Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, West Bengal and Bihar again between March 4 and 6, besides other states thereafter.

In his first leg of the visits, the PM will visit Telangana on March 4 to inaugurate or lay the foundation stones for multiple development projects worth more than ₹56,000 crore.

According to an official statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office on Sunday, after Telangana, Modi will visit Tamil Nadu's Kalpakkam the same day. On March 5 again, he will inaugurate, dedicate and lay the foundation stones for multiple projects worth ₹6,800 crore in Telangana, and the same day, he will visit Odisha to announce development projects worth ₹19,600 crore.

On March 6, the Prime Minister will inaugurate foundation stones for development projects worth ₹15,400 crore in Kolkata and inaugurate the under-river metro tunnel as well.

After Kolkata, Modi is scheduled to visit Bihar's Bettiah where he is scheduled to inaugurate projects worth ₹12,800 crore. That would be the PM's second visit in less than a week to Bihar.

In Bihar's Bettiah, Modi will inaugurate the 109-km Muzaffarpur-Motihari LPG pipeline of Indian Oil, which is aimed at providing cleaner cooking fuel in areas neighbouring Nepal.

The new pipeline will act as a strategic supply point of petroleum products in Nepal in addition to covering Bihar's eight districts — East Champaran, West Champaran, Siwan, Sheohar, Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Gopalganj and Muzaffarpur.

As part of his visits, Modi will hold public meetings in Adilabad in Telangana and Chennai in Tamil Nadu. He will also address a public meeting in Chandikhole in Odisha, before travelling to West Bengal.

On March 7, the PM will visit Jammu and Kashmir and on return, will attend a media event in Delhi in the evening.

On March 8, Modi will participate in the first-ever National Creator's Award in Delhi and then leave for Assam.

On March 10, he is scheduled to visit Uttar Pradesh to dedicate to the nation various projects in Azamgarh. He will attend an event in Delhi the next day related to 'Namo Drone Didi' and 'Lakhpati Didi' programmes.

Second visit to Bihar

After Kolkata, Modi is scheduled to visit Bihar's Bettiah where he is scheduled to inaugurate projects worth ₹12,800 crore. That would be the PM's second visit in less than a week to Bihar. In Bihar's Bettiah, Modi will inaugurate the 109-km Muzaffarpur-Motihari LPG pipeline of Indian Oil, which is aimed at providing cleaner cooking fuel in areas neighbouring Nepal.

POWER GAMES

SHAHID FARIDI
The writer is Resident Editor TNIE, New Delhi.
Follow him on X@Shahid_Faridi_

Hill Storm

PRIYANKA EFFORTS MAY NOT HELP SUKHU SURVIVE

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has been leading the firefight after the defection of six MLAs of her party threatened the survival of Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's government in Himachal Pradesh. The six Congress MLAs voted in favour of BJP candidate Harsh Mahajan in the Rajya Sabha election, leading to his victory against the ruling party's Abhishek Manu Singhvi. The defection of six Congress MLAs and the return of three independents, who are all BJP rebels, into the parent party had brought the strength of the ruling Congress and opposition BJP to 34 each in the 68-member Assembly. The Congress had to disqualify the six defectors and suspend 15 BJP members to pass the state Budget a day after the Rajya Sabha election. Sources said the entire operation to save the government was handled by Priyanka. She has strongly backed Sukhu and overruled senior party leaders who suggested heeding the wishes of the disgruntled MLAs. She has tried to placate former chief minister Virbhadra Singh's wife Pratibha Singh, who is the state president of Congress, and son Vikramaditya Singh, who is a Cabinet minister, besides the MLAs demanding the removal of Sukhu. But despite her best efforts, the rebel camp is still insisting on changing the chief minister. According to sources, the rank of rebel Congress MLAs is swelling by the day and even if the disqualification of six MLAs is not reversed by the court, the government may not be able to have a majority in the Assembly. Sources said the Congress high command may soon be left with two options – Save Sukhu as CM or save its government in Himachal Pradesh.

Battle 2024

CONGRESS WANTS ITS BIG GUNS TO JOIN POLL FRAY

The Congress leadership has asked its top leaders to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha election. Among those who are likely to join the fray are former chief ministers Bhupesh Baghel, Ashok Gehlot, Kamal Nath, Sushil Kumar Shinde or a member of his family, Prithviraj Chavan, Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Digvijay Singh. Among the top AICC leaders who have been asked to fight polls are K C Venugopal, Jitendra Singh, Kumari Selja, Mukul Wasnik, Supriya Srinate, Manik Tagore, etc. Other prominent leaders who may join the fray are former Union ministers Sachin Pilot, C P Joshi, Kantilal Bhuria and Rajasthan PCC president Govind Singh Dotasra. Sources said at least one member of the Gandhi family is sure to contest the election from Uttar Pradesh. The family will not leave Uttar Pradesh. There is a strong possibility of Rahul Gandhi fighting again from Amethi and Priyanka Gandhi making her maiden entry into the political arena from her family's traditional seat Rae Bareli, which was recently vacated by her mother Sonia Gandhi who has gone to the Rajya Sabha. Sources said that by asking the party's big guns to contest the election, the Congress leadership wants to send a message to the people that the party is fighting the election to win. The Congress leadership feels that the momentum created by the formation of the opposition INDIA bloc needs to be maintained by fielding big names in the election.

SC to hear plea challenging remission granted to ex-MP Anand Mohan

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a plea challenging remission granted to former Bihar Lok Sabha MP Anand Mohan, who is serving a life term in the 1994 murder case of the then Gopalganj district magistrate, G Krishnaiah.

Uma Krishnaiah, the wife of the deceased magistrate, has moved the top court challenging the Bihar government's decision to release Mohan prematurely.

A two-judge bench of Justices Surya Kant and KV Viswanathan is set to hear the petition on Monday.

Mohan was released from Bihar's Saharsa jail in April last year after serving more than 14 years in jail. He was prematurely released and granted remission following an April 10, 2023 amendment to the Bihar prison manual by the state government.

On February 6, the Supreme Court asked Mohan — the gangster-turned-politician of Bihar — to surrender his passport and asked the Centre to make its stand clear on his premature release issue.

The top court had also the former MP to record his presence every fortnight at the local police station.

Upon his conviction in the murder case in 1994, Mohan was released after serving more than 14 years in jail, as the Bihar government had, in its notification, ordered to free him.

Terming the notification "not a good decision", Uma Krishnaiah in her plea said, "It is submitted that it is a well-settled principle of law that Imprisonment for life means full natural course of life and cannot be mechanically interpreted to be 14 years. It means that imprisonment for life lasts until the last breath," Uma's petition read.

Krishanaiah, a 1985 batch IAS officer, was only 37 years old when he was killed in Muzaffarpur by a mob led by a few politicians, including Mohan.

ALSO IN TOP COURT

Hate speech: SC to hear Hindu Sena plea

The Supreme Court on Monday will hear Hindu Sena's PIL seeking a direction for registration of FIR against those leaders who made hate speeches on Sanatan Dharma, Ram temple and Kashi-Mathura disputes. The PIL names Asaduddin Owaisi, Udhayanidhi Stalin, Kamal Haasan, A Raja and Swami Prasad Maurya, among others.

Take action against Google: AIBA to PM

The All India Bar Association (AIBA) has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking stringent penal action against tech giant Google for its alleged attempt to tarnish image of the PM. Google's AI platform Gemini has put out false information about the PM in public domain, said AIBA chairman Adish C Aggarwala.

Manipur arms loot case: CBI files chargesheet against seven accused

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a charge sheet against seven accused in connection with the looting of arms and ammunition from the Bishnupur police armoury during the ethnic violence that rocked Manipur last year, CBI officials said on Sunday.

The charge sheet was recently filed before the court of chief judicial magistrate in Kamrup (metro) in Assam's Guwahati, the officials said. The trial in the cases relating to the Manipur violence has been shifted to Assam.

"The accused named in the charge sheet are Laishram Prem Singh, Khumukcham Dhiren alias Thapkpa, Moirangthem Anand Singh, Athokpam Kajit alias Kishorjit, Loukrakpam Michael Mangangcha alias Michael, Konthoujam Romojit Meitei alias Romojit, and Keisham Johnson alias Johnson," a senior CBI official said.

On August 3 last year, a mob looted more than 300 weapons and 19,800 rounds of ammunition from two rooms of the second Indian Reserve Battalion headquarters at Naranseina in Bishnupur.

An AK series assault rifle, three 'Ghaatak' rifles, 195 self-loading rifles, five MP-5 guns, 16.9 mm pistols, 25 bulletproof jackets, 21 carbines, and 124 hand grenades were looted, the officials said. A crowd had gathered there to march towards Churachandpur where tribal Kuki-Zo community members were planning to carry out a mass burial of their people killed in the ethnic clashes that broke out in Manipur on May 3 last year.

As many as 219 people have died since the ethnic violence broke out after a 'tribal solidarity march' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for ST status.

CALCUTTA HIGH COURT JUDGE GANGOPADHYAY TO RESIGN TOMORROW

PRANAB MONDAL @Kolkata

CALCUTTA High Court justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay, who is in the crosshairs of the ruling TMC for ordering central agencies to probe at least 14 scam cases, on Sunday announced that he would step down as a judge on Tuesday.

"My inner soul tells me that my tenure as judge is over. Considering the interest of deprived people, who cannot come to knock the door of the judiciary, it is time to enter bigger sphere and serve. I will tender my resignation to the CJI and the President of India on Tuesday," he said.

Gangopadhyay, 62, is scheduled to retire after three months. "For passing several judgements, many in the ruling party made insulting comments against me. They even asked me to quit my chair and face them in the field of politics. I have finally made up my mind. I congratulate the ruling party for bringing me here. In history books, we have read about the Maurya Samrajya. Right now, we are witnessing Chaurya Samrajya (empire of thieves) in Bengal," he said.

Gangopadhyay came to limelight in May 2022 when he ordered the CBI to probe irregularities in recruitment of non-teaching staff and teaching staff by the education department between 2014 and 2021. The appointments were allegedly given in exchange for bribe to those who failed to qualify. In April 2023, he ordered CBI probe into alleged recruitment scam in civic bodies.

On his next move, he said, "I will reply all your questions below the statue of freedom fighter Surya Sen at the high court building at 1.30 pm on Tuesday."

NIA chargesheets Maoist politburo member for bid to revive outfit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday said it has filed a charge sheet against two more accused, including a prominent politburo member of the CPI (Maoist), in a case linked to revival of the banned outfit's activities in Magadh zone of Bihar.

Officials in the agency, while confirming about the filing of supplementary charge sheet before the NIA Special Court in Bihar's Patna, said that the two accused were Pramod Mishra (who goes by the aliases Sohan Da, Vanbihariji, Doctor Saab, Janardan, Dada and Babaji) of Aurangabad district, and Anil Yadav (who goes by the aliases Ankush and Lavkush) of Gaya district of the state.

They said that the NIA had on February 2, 2024 filed a charge sheet against two others in the case relating to attempts by the CPI (Maoist) to revive violent Naxal activities in the Magadh zone. In the current charge sheet, both the accused have been charged under Sections of the IPC and UAPA.

'Infiltration on western, J&K borders down'

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

WITH heightened alert on the western borders and in Jammu and Kashmir by the Indian forces ahead of national elections in the country, the intelligence agencies' reports to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) suggest that there has been a perceptible reduction in terrorist infiltrations.

Activities on part of Pakistan authorities in aiding and abetting infiltration of terrorists from the other side of the fence and also helping them in tunnel construction have reduced, sources in the intelligence agency said on Sunday.

According to the intelligence reports, the change in tactics by the Pakistan's Army, Rangers and ISI are indicative of their intent to avoid any backlash or counteroffensive at this juncture, as this would have international and domestic ramifications beyond their control, sources said.

They said that for long, the Pakistani forces were helping and facilitating terrorists in their bid to infiltrate, constructing tunnels and peddling narcotic substances across the borders, particularly in Jammu and in Punjab sectors.

They said, this change in behaviour has been noticed by Indian intelligence agencies for the past six months, as there has been a substantial decrease in terror activities emanating from the Rangers' border outposts on the Pakistan side.

Sources, quoting intelligence reports, noted that authorities in Pakistan were found involved in aiding terrorists in their infiltration plans, tunnel digging and other activities till August-September last year, as inputs were there that terrorists were using Rangers' Border Observation Posts as launching pads to enter India.

Intelligence reports in 2022 suggested that terrorists were constructing tunnels in Jammu and Punjab sectors with active support from Pakistani forces. The inputs on the tunnels were gathered following the BSF detected a few of them in 2021.

In June 2022, the BSF found a "small opening" near Chak Faquira border outpost along the international border in J&K's Samba district and confirmed that the passage was a cross-border tunnel originating from Pakistan. "This tunnel was 150-metre long and originated in Pakistan," a BSF spokesperson had said, adding that sandbags found inside were being used to strengthen the passage.

DK Boora, the IG of BSF Jammu, said, "This is the fifth tunnel that has been detected in less than one-and-a-half years. This shows the strategy of the Pakistan establishment to create trouble in India."

The Ministry of Home Affairs has told Parliament that BSF has taken various measures to check the infiltration of the terrorists along the Indo-Pakistan border.

Installing laser walls is one of the integrated measures taken by the BSF. The laser technology developed by BSF has been designed to cover all the shortcomings experienced in the use of laser walls at various places in the past.

CHANGE IN TACTICS

Pakistan authorities were found aiding terrorists in infiltration plans, tunnel digging and other activities till August-September last year

Terrorists were using the Rangers' Border Observation Posts as launching pads to illegally enter India

Intelligence reports in 2022 suggested that terrorists were constructing tunnels in Jammu and Punjab sectors with active support from Pakistani forces

BSF detected a few of them in 2021

A REDUCTION IN SUCH ACTIVITIES WAS NOTICED FOR THE PAST 6 MONTHS

The change in tactics by Pakistan's Army, Rangers and ISI are indicative of their intent to avoid any backlash or counteroffensive at this juncture, as this would have international and domestic ramifications beyond their control

MINERALS VEHICLES

More than 6,000 vehicles were seized for ferrying minerals illegally while an amount of Rs 16.27 crore was realised as penalty from the offenders in Jammu and Kashmir in the current fiscal, an official said on Sunday

1 HELD IN PALGHAR FOR KILLING WIFE

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	26	14	Mumbai	30	22
Bhopal	24	12	Panaji	32	22
Jaipur	22	12	Patna	28	19
Amritsar	21	06	Lucknow	26	12
Chennai	31	25	Port Blair	31	26
Kolkata	33	23	Imphal	25	14
Srinagar	03	-04	Chandigarh	21	10

After first list, saffron camp abuzz with suspense over remaining seats as party loyalty is being tested in MP, Raj, J'khand and elsewhere

BJP in fix in stronghold Indore & Kamal Nath turf

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

WITH the BJP naming candidates for 24 Lok Sabha seats of Madhya Pradesh on Saturday, suspense prevails about the five remaining seats, including key Chhindwara, Indore and Ujjain.

The Indore seat, which has been a BJP citadel since 1989 (ex-LS speaker Sumitra Mahajan won it 8 times between 1989 and 2014), is in focus. According to BJP insiders, the party's top brass is brainstorming whether to continue with first-time MP Shankar Lalwani (lone Sindhi community MP) or field a new face.

"Party is mulling over a host of faces, including current mayor Pushyamitra Bhargava or ex-mayor-cum-current MLA Malini Gaur or field a new female face, where options include first time Rajya Sabha member Kavita Patidar, social activist and state BJP spokesperson Divya Gupta, spiritual guru late Bhaiyyuji Maharaj's wife Aisi Deshmukh or local leader Mala Thakur," a party leader said.

With Kamal Nath and his MP son Nakul Nath's possible switch to the BJP now nearly over, the BJP is looking to field a strong candidate from Chhindwara, which has been Nath family's pocket-borough since 1980.

"The party is also working to field strong candidates from Ujjain-SC seat which covers the home district of current MP CM Mohan Yadav, OBC and tribal-dominated Balaghat seat and Dhar-ST seat," a party leader said.

In the 8 assembly segments of Dhar, BJP managed to win only three in the recent assembly polls. In the first list, while 13 MPs sitting MPs were retained, six others, among them Bhopal MP Pragya Singh Thakur Guna MP KP Singh Yadav, were denied tickets.

The list marked the return for four-time former MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan to the LS battlefield after 20 years from his political 'karmabhoomi' Vidisha.

He had won the seat five times. Union minister and RS member Jyotiraditya Scindia was named from Guna seat (represented by him as Congress candidate four times in the past) which he lost to BJP's KP Singh Yadav in 2019 polls.

The list also included Shivraj Chouhan loyalists, including Alok Sharma from Bhopal seat and Darshan Singh Chaudhary. While assembly speaker and ex-union minister Narendra Singh Tomar wasn't considered for Gwalior or Morena seats (both won by him in the past), his key loyalists, including sitting MP Sandhya Rai, ex-MLA Shivmangal Singh Tomar and ex-MP minister Bharat Singh Kushwah, were named from Bhind-SC, Morena and Gwalior seats.

Meanwhile, voices of dissent within the BJP have started coming out over tickets. Ex-MP minister Ajay Vishnoi (second-time MLA from Patan) wrote on X about Ashish Dube, the candidate from Jabalpur LS seat who opposed him in the recent assembly polls.

In Jharkhand, party wants to trust old faces

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

AMID speculations that many of the old faces will be replaced with new ones in 2024 polls, the central BJP leadership has shown confidence in most of the old faces in Jharkhand.

The party has declared names of its candidates for 11 out of a total 14 Lok Sabha seats in Jharkhand on Saturday, out of which, old faces have been replaced with new ones at only three seats – Rajmahal, Lohardaga and Hazaribagh.

Congress MP Geeta Koda, who recently joined BJP, has been given party ticket from Singhbhum seat. While former BJP President Tala Marandi, who had to lose his position within months after his son, Munna Marandi, landed in controversy for sexually exploiting a girl for over two years and then marrying another minor.

Tala, however, returned to BJP after two and a half years. Now, he has replaced Hemlal Murmu on Rajmahal seat. Among the new faces, the party has shown confidence in Hazaribagh (Sadar) MLA Manish Jaiswal, which happens to be a traditional BJP seat. The Lohardaga Lok Sabha seat has been given to Rajya Sabha MP Sameer Oraon, whose tenure in upper house is ending this year.

In quest for 25/25, whiff of discontent in Rajasthan

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

DROPPING of five sitting MPs in the BJP's first list of 15 candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in Rajasthan has brought to the fore rift within the party, sources said. "Even as the BJP goes for a hat-trick of a win in all 25 seats in Rajasthan , the internal rift in the party remains a big headache," a party leader said, wishing not to be named.

In Churu, sitting MP Ram Singh Kaswan has been dropped. He has been replaced by newcomer and paralympic gold medalist Devendra Jhajhadia. Kaswan has been at loggerheads with former leader of opposition Rajendra Singh Rathore who lost the assembly elections from Churu. "It is believed that Kaswan has been denied a ticket because of infighting. Kaswan was blamed for Rathore's defeat in the assembly elections," the party leader said.

Sitting MPs whose tickets have been cut are Kaswan (Churu), Ranjeeta Koli (Bharatpur), Devji Patel (Jalore), Arjun Lal Meena (Udaipur) and Kanakmal Katara (Banswara). Alwar and Nagaur seats were vacant after BJP's Baba Balaknath and RLP's Hanuman Beniwal won assembly elections. **Bhupendra Yadav**, a minister in the Modi government, has been named for Alwar seat, with Balaknath becoming an MLA.

"Balaknath is close to UP CM Yogi Adityanath who is considered as an alternative power centre in the BJP. Keeping Balaknath as an MLA seems to be an attempt to cut down Yogi's influence in Rajasthan," another party leader said. He said, "There was a buzz about BJP trying to persuade Vasundhara Raje to fight Lok Sabha elections in Jhalawar in place of her son so as to accommodate her in the central cabinet."

The leaders who have come from the Congress recently got tickets. Mahendra Jeet Singh Malviya, who has joined the BJP a fortnight ago, has been fielded from Banswara.

GUWAHATI DIARY

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR

Our correspondent in Guwahati

prasantamazumdar@newindianexpress.com

'One person whom Himanta fears is me'

Assam Congress chief Bhupen Kumar Borah said if there is one person that Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is afraid of, it is he. "I am certain that if there is one person in Assam that Himanta Biswa Sarma truly fears, it is me. His acrimonious behaviour towards me and my family betrays his innermost fears," Borah said. Giving examples of the CM's "acrimonious" behaviour towards him, Borah said the CM transferred the former's brother and sister-in-law – both government servants – to two opposite ends of Assam. He said that those who attacked him in Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra were allowed to roam free.

Tata semiconductor unit to generate employment

The Assam government is ecstatic that a semiconductor packaging unit is coming up in the state. The unit, to be set up by Tata Group in central Assam's Morigaon district, entails an investment of ₹27,000 crore. This is one of the three such units approved by the Centre recently. CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said the state would extend all necessary aid to the unit. "An estimated 30,000 people will get direct and indirect employment. It is a very big achievement. Assam never had such an achievement in the industrial sector," Sarma said. The unit will develop indigenous advanced semiconductor packaging technologies, including flip chip.

Device capable of recording motion signals

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati have developed a cost-effective gel-based wearable device which is capable of recording motion signals. In a statement, the institute said the 'Organohydrogel' sensor, placed on the body of a patient in a comatose state or facing a similar condition, through a wireless device and a smartphone can monitor subtle movements over an extended period. This provides healthcare professionals with invaluable insights into the patient's conditions. "Flexible and wearable electronics play a pivotal role in augmenting human capabilities, serving functions like artificial skin and prosthetics to assist human movements," the statement said.

Pawan Singh | PTI

Pawan Singh pulls out of fray amid outcry over his songs

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

WITHIN 24 hours of announcing its first candidate list, BJP's Lok Sabha poll preparedness in West Bengal received a jolt on Sunday after Bhojpuri singer Pawan Singh, who was nominated for Asansol constituency, decided to withdraw from the fray citing "some reasons".

Singh expressed his unwillingness to contest after the ruling TMC launched a scathing attack on the Bihar-based 38-year-old singer shortly after the BJP announced his name as the candidate from the Bengal's constituency bordering Hindi-speaking region of eastern India. The Bengal's ruling party targeted the saffron camp saying several songs performed by its candidate in Asansol made "lewd and uncivilised remarks about Bengali women".

"I express my heartfelt gratitude to the top leadership of Bharatiya Janata Party. The party trusted me and declared me as the candidate from Asansol but due to some reason I will not be able to contest the elections from Asansol," Singh, who was BJP's first list of 20 candidates for state's 42 seats, said on his X handle.

After the Bhojpuri's name was announced as a candidate on Saturday, Babul Supriyo, former BJP MP from Asansol and presently a cabinet minister in Mamata Banerjee's government, described the saffron camp as anti-Bengali for nominating Singh.

"Fielding Pawan Singh from Asansol shows their insensitivity against Bengali women. In terms of offending Bengali women & painting them in an utterly disrespectful light in Film titles & Songs, Pawanji (nothing against him as an artist, I reiterate) projects Bengali Songs & Films is surely a repeat offender!! The first list in itself is the last nail on the coffin of BJP in Bengal," Supriyo wrote on X.

Shortly after Singh withdrew his candidature, TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee took to X and said, "The INDOMITABLE SPIRIT AND POWER OF THE PEOPLE OF WEST BENGAL." Taking a jibe at the BJP, TMC Rajya Sabha MP Sagarika Ghose saying that "nari Shakti" call in Bengal now lies in tatters.

Hemant Soren's wife to start her political journey

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

KALPANA Soren, wife of former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, who has been quite vocal on social media against the BJP after the arrest of her husband, will be starting her political career on Monday.

Declaring on social media platform X, she said that she will start her public life from Giridih on Monday.

"On the demand of the people of Jharkhand and innumerable hard working members of the JMM family, I am starting my public life from tomorrow. Until Hemant ji comes back among us, I will continue to be his voice and share his thoughts with you all and will continue to serve you," posted Kalpana Soren on X. Before starting a new journey of her life, she also took blessings of JMM patriarch and her father-in-law Shibu Soren and mother-in-law Rupi Soren.

Kalpana said that, being a daughter of an Army officer, she has been taught to struggle and fight for the truth without fear.

The 48-year-old originally hails from Mayurbhanj district in Odisha, got married to Hemant Soren on February 7, 2006. She was born in Ranchi and her family, has a long association with the city.

Tripura pact: Stress on implementation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

TIPRA founder Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma after pact was signed | PTI

TRIPURA Chief Minister Manik Saha and political outfit TIPRA Motha described as "historic" the tripartite agreement signed with the central government towards finding a "constitutional solution" to the various problems faced by the state's indigenous tribal population – Tiprasa.

TIPRA Motha chief Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma said that the key to success lies in the proper implementation of the pact on the ground. He stressed the importance of implementing the accord with integrity, patience, and humanity, and called for the involvement of experts in academia, law, and those knowledgeable about land rights, history, culture, and language of the state in the joint working committee.

Highlighting the issues raised by TIPRA Motha relating to the history, land and political rights, economic development, identity, culture and language of the indigenous tribals, Saha said it was agreed that they would be resolved through dialogues.

"I believe the tripartite agreement will fulfil the aspirations of the tribals. We have no intention to deprive anyone. We will resolve the issues through dialogues," the CM said.

He said TIPRA Motha had raised the issues and drew the attention of state and central governments from time to time seeking a solution. The government also held dialogues occasionally to find ways and means to resolve them, he added.

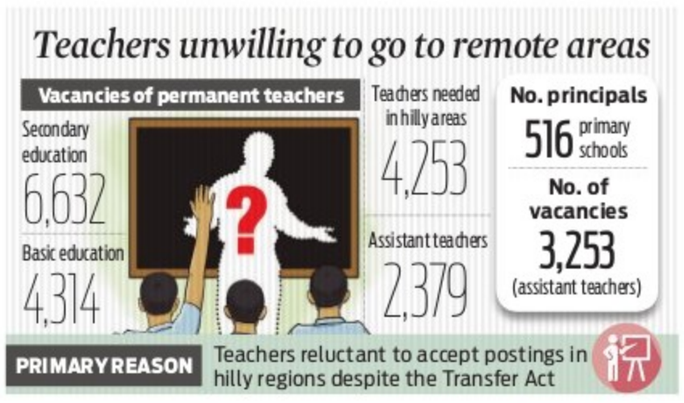
Saha hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah for the agreement. He thanked TIPRA Motha chief as well.

"This agreement was the need of the hour. We want peace to continue to prevail in Tripura. I often say we want to stay in the government by not creating problems but by finding a solution. We want to make Tripura a progressive state. With this agreement, we took one step ahead," Saha said.

Meanwhile, Debbarma thanked the Centre, Tripura government and Tiprasa people for the agreement.

Shortage of teachers in U'khand's hilly areas poses new challenge for govt

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun



DESPITE ongoing efforts by the Uttarakhand Education Ministry, the basic and secondary education system in the state is yet to gather pace. A staggering 10,946 positions for permanent teachers remain unfilled in the hilly districts. There are 6,632 vacancies in secondary education and 4,314 in basic education.

Education Minister Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat told this newspaper that there were 4,253 openings for teachers and 2,379 vacancies for assistant teachers (LT) in these districts.

However, there are currently 2,594 guest teachers employed in teaching roles and 1,123 guest teachers working as assistant teachers (LT), which partially addresses the shortfall, said Rawat.

"In addition, delays in recruitment are being attributed to the State Public Service Commission and Subordinate Service Selection Commission," he said. He highlighted the pressing need for prompt intervention, noting that "despite the Transfer Act being enforced to facilitate transparent transfers, teachers are reluctant to accept postings in the hilly regions."

Acknowledging the fact that there are no principals in 516 primary schools and 45 upper primary schools in basic education, the Education Minister said, there are 3,253 vacancies for assistant teachers in primary schools and 500 vacancies for assistant teachers in upper primary schools.

"The number of vacant positions for teachers changes due to retirements, promotions, transfers, etc. in districts," he said.

Spanish biker's rape: NCW writes to DGP; 3 held

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

THE National Commission for Women (NCW) has written to the Jharkhand police chief to expedite the investigation into the alleged gang-rape of a Spanish biker in Dumka on Friday night.

The Special Investigation Team, formed by the Dumka Superintendent of Police, arrested three suspects and sent them to jail on Sunday.

"A letter has been sent to DGP from NCW chairperson Rekha Sharma to expedite the investigation into this matter and invoke charges of rape under Section 376D of IPC," NCW posted on X. The NCW chairperson also spoke to the victim and has extended all required assistance, it said.

The NCW has sent a representative to inquire into the case and meet the victim and police officers in Jharkhand.

The Dumka SP, however, said besides the three accused, 4 other suspects will also be nabbed soon. "We have identified them," he said.

What went down

- A Spanish woman was allegedly gang-raped in Dumka on Friday night
- She was on a bike tour of India with her husband and was going towards Nepal
- The incident took place while they were taking rest in a makeshift tent
- NCW wrote to Jharkhand police chief to expedite the investigation

"The victim's statement under Section 164 of IPC was registered before the magistrate on Sunday while the three accused persons, arrested by the SIT, were sent to jail. Two SITs were formed, one for proper investigation of the case while the other for arresting the suspects," said Dumka SP Pitamber Singh Kherwar.

The SP said different teams of the Forensic Science Laboratory and CID were called in from Ranchi for scientific investigation of the case.

"We will also ensure a speedy trial is conducted so that justice is done with the Spanish woman and her husband," said the SP. The Spanish woman was allegedly gang-raped in Dumka on Friday night. She was on a bike tour of India with her husband and was going towards Nepal through India from Bangladesh.

The victim told the police that the incident took place while they were taking rest in a makeshift tent around 11 pm on Friday. "A group of seven people beat up her husband, robbed them and raped her," a police officer was quoted as saying. The victim and her husband also posted their statement on social media explaining the horrific incident, saying that, "something happened to us that we would not wish to happen to anyone else."

An FIR has been lodged at the Hansdiha police station in Dumka. Dumka's Deputy Commissioner A Dodde said, "The embassy and chief secretary have been informed. The couple are under protection here."

Meanwhile, NCW chief Rekha Sharma on Sunday responded to a US-based journalist who, in a post, said he witnessed the highest level of "sexual aggression" in India. She asked the journalist whether he reported such incidents to police. "If not, then you are totally an irresponsible person," she said. "Writing only on social media and defaming whole country is not a good choice."

Journalist David Josef Volodzko said the level of sexual aggression he witnessed while living in India for several years was unlike anywhere else he had ever been after the Dumka incident.

David said that he never met a female traveler who had not been groped or assaulted or worse, even if they had only been in the country for mere days. He clarified that he loved the country, but advised his female friends to not travel alone.

HECTIC PARLEYS UNDERWAY FOR 6-WEEK GAZA CEASEFIRE

GAZA

EGYPT on Sunday hosted envoys for talks on a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, the latest diplomatic effort as Gaza officials reported more deadly bombardment in the nearly five-month-old war. A senior Hamas official told AFP that a delegation from the Palestinian group would discuss with mediators a proposal for a six-week truce, after a US official said Israel had broadly accepted its terms.

Envoys from the United States, Qatar and Hamas have arrived in Cairo, Egyptian state-linked media reported, as all sides have been scrambling to lock in a truce before Ramadan, the Muslim fasting month that begins on March 10 or 11. Accoding to an Israeli newspaper report, Israel will not be sending a negotiating team to Cairo as Hamas rejected its demand for a complete list naming hostages who are still alive.

The Hamas official said that if Israel were to meet its demands -- which have included a military withdrawal from Gaza and stepped-up humanitarian aid -- this would "pave the way for an agreement within the next 24-48 hours". The health ministry in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip said at least 90 Palestinians had been killed in the past 24 hours, including 14 family members whose house in the southern Rafah refugee camp had been hit. Two of them, twin babies Naeem and Wissam Abu Anza, were buried on Sunday, an AFP photographer said, as their mother Rania was crying in agony. Relative Shehda Abu Anza said there were "only civilians" at the family home. "All of them were sleeping when suddenly a missile hit and destroyed the whole house," he told AFP.

As Gaza faces dwindling deliveries of relief supplies across its land borders, Israel's top ally, the United States, carried out a first airdrop, joining several Arab and European government that have parachuted in aid since November. *AFP*

A Palestinian woman stands in front of her home during the funeral of her twin babies who were killed in an overnight Israeli air strike in Rafah on Sunday | AFP

Palestinian leader Abbas to visit Turkiye next week

ANTALYA: Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas will visit Turkiye next week for talks about the Gaza war and reconciliation efforts between Palestinian factions, the Turkish foreign minister said on Sunday. The visit comes as intensive diplomacy is underway to pause the fighting in the almost five-month-old war between Israel and Hamas sparked by the Palestinian militant group's October 7 attacks. Turkey's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said: "There is a serious desire and effort to reach a ceasefire before Ramadan," in closing remarks to an annual diplomacy forum in the Mediterranean holiday resort of Antalya.

100 PTI supporters held for holding rallies

LAHORE

OVER 100 supporters of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party have been arrested from different parts of Punjab province of Pakistan for staging rallies against alleged vote rigging, police said on Sunday. On the call of party founder Imran Khan, supporters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party held protests across Pakistan on Saturday against the alleged "massive rigging" in the February 8 general elections. Most arrests took place in Lahore where newly elected Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz ordered a clamp down on the protesting PTI supporters. "The police arrested 80 workers in Lahore. Over 20 have been arrested in Gujrat city. Protests were held in 38 cities of Punjab and the federal capital Islamabad," a PTI spokesperson said on Sunday. In Lahore, police baton-charged protesters at GPO Chowk and Liberty Chowk. "PTI leaders Mian Shahzad Farooq and Afzaal Azeem Pahat, who contested the election last month against Maryam Nawaz and her uncle Shehbaz Sharif, respectively, were also arrested. Farooq had defeated Maryam, but the Election Commission of Pakistan had changed the result," the spokesperson said. *PTI*

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PUBLIC CAUTION NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of General Public that the KPTCL has entrusted the Construction of following lines.

1). No.: VJP/MWD/EEE/2023-24/F-284/3473 Date: 20-02-2024

Construction of 110 KV SC line on DC towers from existing 110/11 KV Talikoti Sub-station to proposed 110/11KV Vanahalli Sub-station for a distance of **12.783kms** and Construction of one number of 110KV Terminal Bay at 110/11KV Talikoti Sub-station in Talikoti Taluk, Vijayapur District. The line work is nearing completion and line will be charged on or after the date **15.03.2024.** The power line passes through Talikoti, Minajagi, Bavoor, Kuchabal, Handaral, Nadahalli & Vanahalli village limits.

2). No.: VJP/MWD/EEE/2023-24/F-263/3474 Date: 20-02-2024

Constructing 110kV LILO line using Lynx conductor from 110kV B.Bagewadi - Muddebihal SC line to Proposed 110/11kV Sub-station at Hullur (Jettagi) for a distance of **2.993Kms** in Muddebihal Taluk, Vijayapur District. The line work is nearing completion and line will be charged on or after the date **10.03.2024.** The power line passes through Chelumi, Jettagi and Hullur village limit.

3). No.: VJP/MWD/EEE/2023-24/F-278/3475 Date: 20-02-2024

Construction of 110kV SC line on DC towers using Lynx conductor from 110kV Hiremasali Sub-station to proposed 110kV Sub-station at Naad for a distance of **8.225 kms** along with Construction of one(01) number of 110kV terminal bay at 110kV Hiremasali Sub-station in Indi Taluk, Vijayapur District. The line work is nearing completion and line will be charged on or after the date **15.03.2024**. The power line passes through Masali BK and Salotagi village limit.

The general public are here by requested to keep away from the above lines and they are also requested not to tie the animals to the towers, not to throw green sticks, wires on the line, and not to climb towers of the line. KPTCL will not be held responsible for any accidents which may occur due to violation of the above said instruction.

Sd/- Executive Engineer(Ele.,), Major Works Division, KPTCL, Division Office Complex, Bagalkot Road, Vijayapur - 586109. Phone No: 08352-277748.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THIS IS TO INFORM GENERAL PUBLIC That my clients namely **Sri. Babu** S/o Venkatesh, Varshitha .R W/o Sri. Babu, Shivaraj .V S/o Venkatesh and Kavya W/o Shivaraju .V, intends to purchase the immovable property morefully described in the schedule hereunder ('Schedule Property') from its owner A.N. Ramesh @ Ajjampur, Narasanna, Ramesh. If anybody has any charge, lien, interest or title or claim or agreement on the schedule property they should come forthwith copies of the document in support of such claim and produce the same to the undersigned **within 7 days** from the date of publication of this notice, in the event no such legally tenable claim is received, my client shall proceed with the purchase of the schedule property as if no such claims exist or that they have been waived or abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing vacant Site No.7 & 8, Assessment No.50/2, V.P. Katha No. 185, House list No. 113/7 & 113/8, situated at Chunchaghatta Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, property comes under jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No. 195, measuring East to West : 30 feet, North to South : Eastern Site : 70 feet, Western Site : 75 feet, totally measuring 2175 Sq Ft., and bounded on : **East by:** Property No. 17 & 18, **West by :** Road, **North by :** Private Property, **South by:** Property No.9.

MANJUNATHA .V.S, Advocate, No.6/1, 1st Floor, 14th Cross, Cubbonpet, Bengaluru-560002. Mob:9743989393.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my client **CHETHAN. P** has Interested in purchasing the schedule property from **SMT. SUPRITHA.S,** D/o Shivakumar.R, r/at No.82, Sri Sapthagiri Nivas, 20th 'C' Cross, Bhuvaneshwarinagar, Kempapura, Bengaluru-560 024, described in the Schedule hereunder. Any persons having any claim, title or interest over the schedule property or any objections to the proposed purchase may file their objections in writing along with copies of the supporting documents to the undersigned ***within 10 days*** from the date of this publication, failing which my client will be advised to go ahead and complete the sale formalities.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of property bearing vacant **Site No. 1015,** Khatha No. 277/279/1015 and PID No.150300201200821503 formed at **Green Woods Garden III Layout,** formed by Telecom Employees Co-Oparative Housing Society Ltd, located at **Bettenahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District,** measuring **East 30 feet, West 36.6 feet, North 47.9 feet & South 40.6 feet in all measuring 1470.00 Square feet** and bounded on:

East by : Site No.1016,
West by : Private Property,
North by : Road &
South by: Site No.1017.

Sd/-

H. Jayarama Reddy, *B.Com., LL.B.,* **Advocate,** No. 20/1, Narayanappa Building, 2nd Floor, Above Prince Dry Cleaners, Vasanthappa Block, C.B.I. Road, Ganga Nagar, Bengaluru-560 032. Mobile: 94480 88505 / 90350 88505 Date: 02.03.2024 Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR LOST DOCUMENT

My Client **Mr. Vinay,** S/o Akula Sudhir Kumar, Resident of No: D3 102, Rosewood Regency Apartments, Kaikondrahalli, Bangalore-560035, has irretrievable **lost the original Sale Deed dated 15/12/2014,** Registered as Document No:VRT-**1-03985-2014-15, CD No: VRTD236, registered** at the office of the sub registrar Varthur, My Client has Lodged a Police Complaint for lost article on 02/03/2024 under acknowledgment issued by the Bangalore City Police, bearing SL No.958183, Lost Report No.0958183/2024.

If any person/s found the said sale deed please come forward with in a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice and hand over the same to the under signed, will be suitably rewarded. If anyone has already carried out any transaction or any transaction is in the process of being carried out using the missing document, kindly inform the undersigned party in writing at the below mentioned address within 07 days from this paper publication. Else there won't be any further claims from thereon.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing **Flat No.V6-003**, in the Project **"ASTRO ROSEWOOD"**, Kaikondrahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk.

Radesh Krishnamurthy BE, LLB, LL.M
DIRECTOR
MKM LEGAL SOLUTIONS PVT LTD
Contact No.: 9008242426
Mail: radesh@mkmlegalsolutions.com
Office at: 3rd Floor, SMN Complex, Opp DSR Apex, Thubarahalli, Bengaluru-560067.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General public that my client Smt. **Thota Sita Ramalakshmi Wife of Thota Satyanarayana, aged about 73 years, R/at: No. 26-9-65,** Balusumudi, Near Old Ramalayam, Sivaraopeta, West Godavari, A.P: 534202, **Rep by her General Power of Holder her daughter by name Smt. Vani Thota D/o of Smt. Thota Sita Ramalakshmi & Thota Satyanarayana.** It is further submits that my mother was purchased House bearing No.54, PID No. 98-170-54, situated at Matadahalli, Further Extn Higher Division Gangenahalli, Ward 34, the BDA formed the layout, measuring East to West: 40 feet & North to South: 30 feet, in total 1200 sq. feet, to constructed five square RCC Roof house acquired by way of registered **sale deed dt: 12.12.1994, vide., Doc. No. 1888/94-95, of Book-1, Volume 4088, at Pages 120 to 128, in the office of Sub-Registrar,Gandhinagar Sub-Registrar Bengaluru,** later revenue documents has been transferred in her name and upto date tax paid to BBMP authorities. **BOUNDED ON:-EAST BY: 63, West by: Road, North by: Site No.53, South by: 55.**

It is further stated that the original sale deed misplaced at my client custody immediately my client has given the police complaint before the R.T. Nagar P.S. serial No. 880820/2024, dt:- 08.01.2024, and police register and acknowledge give to my client. Smt. Thota Sita Ramalakshmi Wife of Thota Satyanarayana, absolute owner of the schedule property.

Any person/s asserting any kind of right, title, interest or claims of any sort towards the Sale transaction may file their objections or claims with documentary proof thereof with the undersigned within **FIFTEEN DAYS (15)** from the date of this publication, failing which my client will proceed on the basis that are no claims will proceed to complete the transaction without being liable.

M.A. JAYAKUMAR, Advocate, No. 960/1, Ground Floor, D.M. Complex, Opp. V.V. Convention Hall, Babusapalya, Bengaluru-560 043. Mob: 9449669991 Date: 02.03.2024 Place: Bengaluru

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Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail id :** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Ph :** 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **City Union Bank Ltd.,** having its **Administrative Office** at **No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612001** and one of the Branch Offices at **Site No.61, 3rd Cross, Ashwath Nagar, Kalamandir Service Road, Marathahalli, Bangalore - 560037, Bengaluru Marathahalli Branch** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) & (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated **09-11-2023** calling upon the borrowers **No.1) Mr. Syed Shabeer, S/o. Syed Ashwak, No.10, Medimallasandra, Hosakote, Bangalore - 562114. No.2) Mr. Syed Mubarak, S/o. Syed Ashwak, No.10, Medimallasandra, Hosakote, Bangalore - 562114. No.3) Mrs. Jabeen Taj, W/o. Syed Ashwak, No.10, Medimallasandra, Hosakote, Bangalore - 562114** to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being **Rs.14,22,918/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighteen only)** within **60 days** from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from **08-11-2023** with monthly rests.

The borrowers above named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers above named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 29th day of February 2024.

The borrowers above named in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd. for an amount of **Rs.13,63,992/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Two only)** and interest thereon from **14-02-2024** till the repayment of entire dues.

The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank

Schedule - A

Property - 1 : (Property Owned by Mr. Syed Shabeer, S/o. Syed Ashwak)

All that Piece and Parcel of Residential Building, in Site bearing Janjar No. & Sl No.578 Nirdharana No. & Property No.317/2 bearing Panchayath Khatha No.578/317/2 Measuring : East to West 25 ft., and North to South 23 ft., Situated at Medimallasandra Village Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District Which Comes under Gramatana Limit of Medimallasandra Village with building thereon and Bounded on the : East by : Government Road, West by : Property belonging to Chotusabi, North by : Property belonging to Syed, South by : Property belonging to Rafiq.

Place : Hosakote, Date : 29-02-2024 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287, Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904

Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail id :** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Ph :** 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.16,84,12,553/- (Rupees Sixteen Crore Eighty Four Lakh Twelve Thousand Five Hundred and Fifty Three only)** as on **29-02-2024** together with further interest to be charged from **01-03-2024** onwards, other expenses and any other dues to the bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) Mr. Mohit Kumar Jain, S/o. Suresh Shah, No.253, M.S.V. Cable Network Road, Amruthahalli, Bangalore - 560093. No.2) Mrs. Jalpa Jain, W/o. Mr. Mohith Kumar Jain, No.253, M.S.V. Cable Network Road, Amruthahalli, Bangalore - 560093. No.3) M/s. Just Love It Apparel LLP, No.31/1, 5th Main, Near Vinayak Temple, Opp. Kavi Travels, Sriramapuram, Bangalore - 560021. No.4) M/s. SFJLI Pvt. Ltd, No.31,5th Main Road, Opp. Kavi Travels, Sriramapuram, Bangalore - 560021. No.5) Mr. Karthick Rao, S/o. H.T. Sadashivarao, No.15, Meenakshi Cottage, Govindappa Lane, 2nd Cross, Ramaswamy Palya, Bangalore - 560033. No.6) Mrs. Prema .S Rao, W/o. Late Sadhashiv Rao, HRBR Layout, 1st Block, Kalyan Nagar, RT Nagar, Bangalore - 560032. No.7) Mr. Ajit Trambakla Shah, S/o. T.T. Shah, No.F 113, 2nd Main Road, Behind Central Chambers, Gandhi Nagar, Bangalore - 560009. No.8) M/s. Soham Fashions, No.31, 5th Main Road, Opp. Kavi Travels, Sriramapuram, Bangalore - 560021. No.9) Mr. Debi Prasad Dhanuka, F/o. Late Udit Dhanuka, (In the capacity of legal heir of late Udit Dhanuka). No.4/16, Palace Road, High Grounds, Opp. Anjaneya Temple, Bangalore- 560052.No.10) Mrs. Sumitra Devi Dhanuka, W/o. Mr. Debi Prasad Dhanuka, (In the capacity of legal heir of late Udit Dhanuka). No.4/16, Palace Road, High Grounds, Opp. Anjaneya Temple, Bangalore - 560052.**

Note : That our **132-Bengaluru-Malleswaram Branch** has also extended Financial Assistance (CUB OSL SPECIAL-BR : 501812080081356) dated **30-09-2021** requested by No.8 of you represented by Nos. 1, 2 and 5 of you as Partners for which Nos.1, 2 and 5 of you stood as Co-obligants and Nos. 1 and 2 of you stood as Guarantors for the facility for a total amount of **Rs. 45,00,000/-** at a ROI of **12%.** The same has been also classified as **NPA** on **29-12-2022** and the outstanding balance as on **29-02-2024** is **Rs.56,68,276/-** plus further interest and penal interest of **2.00%** with monthly rests to be charged from **01-03-2024** till the date of realization.

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank

Schedule - A : (Property Owned by Mr. Mohit Kumar Jain, S/o. Suresh Shah & Mrs. Jalpa Jain, W/o. Mr. Mohith Kumar Jain)

All that piece and parcel of the Commercial land and Building bearing Sy. No.2 (Re-Survey No. 60/1) Southern Portion of Property No.31, PID No.26-33-31/1, Measuring : East - West : 70 Feet, and North-South : 54 Feet, in all 3,780 sq.ft. Situated at Kranti Kavi Sarvagnya Road, Okalipuram, Bangalore, constructed building thereon and bounded by : East by : Road; West by : Road, North by : Property belonging to Ajit T. Shah: and South by : Private Property.

Reserve Price : Rs.6,20,00,000/- (Rupees Six Crore Twenty Lakh only)

Schedule - B : (Property Owned by Mrs. Prema .S Rao, W/o. Late Sadhashiv Rao)

All that piece and parcel of Three Bed Room Residential Flat bearing No.1, in the Ground Floor, Eastern Side, Municipal Katha No.29, PID No.27-71-29 with 1,400 sq.ft. of Super Built-up-Area and undivided share of land to an extent of 670 sq.ft. or 1/6th Share out of total measurement of : East to West : 80 ft. and North to South : 50 ft. admeasuring 4,000 sq.ft. Situated at I Cross, Nehru Nagar, Bangalore City, together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever and bounded on : (For Site) East by : Private Property; West by : Main Road; North by : Property No.28; and South by : Property No.30 (For Flat -East by : Passage, West by : Flat No.2, North by : Passage, South by : Passage).

Reserve Price : Rs.1,10,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Ten Lakh only)

Schedule - C : (Property Owned by Late Udit Dhanuka Now represented by Mr. Debi Prasad Dhanuka & Mrs. Sumitra Devi Dhanuka as his legal heirs)

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Apartment bearing No.GF-2, Municipal No.53, PID No.91-75-53 assigned by the BBMP on the Ground Floor , Measuring about 1,100 sq.ft. Super built-up-Area, in the Apartment known as "LA CITADEL", situated at promenade Road, Ward No.91, Frazer Town, Bangalore, and bounded by : East by : Property bearing Old No.19; West by : Property bearing Old No.17; North by : Promenade Road and; South by : Private Property.

Reserve Price : Rs.85,00,000/- (Rupees Eighty Five Lakh only)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
20-03-2024	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Malleswaram Branch, No.58/1,13th Cross, Margosa Road, Malleswaram, Bengaluru Rural, Karnataka - 560003. Telephone No.080-23463636, Cell No.9342519841.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself/herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru Malleswaram Branch, No.58/1,13th Cross, Margosa Road, Malleswaram, Bengaluru Rural, Karnataka - 560003. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd."**, **on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-23463636, Cell No.9342519841. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 02-03-2024 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287, Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited

(Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd). | CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 7th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031.
Tel : +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

IDFC FIRST Bank

APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6) & 9(1)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Co-Borrower (s) as per column (ii) that the below described immovable properties as per column (iii) mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd, will be sold on 19th March 2024 as "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as described hereunder, for the recovery of amount due from Borrower (s) and Co-Borrower (s) as per column (i), due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd).

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in IDFC FIRST Bank website i.e. **www.idfcfirstbank.com.**

S. NO	(i) Demand Notice Date and Amount	(ii) Name Borrower (s) and Co-Borrower (s)	(iii) PROPERTY ADDRESS	(iv) Reserve Price Amount	(v) EMD Amount	(vi) Date and Time of Auction	(vii) Date and Time of EMD Auction	(viii) Date and time of Inspection	(ix) Name and Mobile No of Authorized officer
1	INR 27,82,499.54/- Demand Notice Date: 28-Jan-2019	**L Vijaykumar, N. Lakkanna & 7 Blu Frmaes**	All the piece and parcel of the property consisting of No.16, 1st Cross, 10th C Main, Near Lalbagh Nursing Home, Jayanagar, Bangalore, Karnataka, 560011 Bounded:- North: Conservancy Lane, South: Road, East: Cross Lane & West: Corporation Bank	**INR 35,91,540/-**	INR 3,59,154/-	19th March 2024 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM	18th March 2024 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM	13th March 2024 1:00 PM To 4:00 PM	Name - Preeti Toshniwal MOB- 9694702013 Name - Samson Castelino MOB- 9164040717

Disclaimer: Please note that the said notice is issued for sale of immovable property only and IDFC FIRST Bank Limited has no right to sale the movable assets, if any, present at the immovable property.

Date : 04.03.2024 **Sd/- Authorized Officer IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd)**

CANARA BANK

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

Branch :Frazer Town Branch, Bangalore

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 07/12/2023 calling upon the borrower **MR MOHAMMED ISAQ (1ST BORROWER), Mr MOHAMMED KALEEM (2nd Borrower)**, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs. 10,33,325.97 (Rupees Ten Lakhs Thirty Three thousand Three Hundred Twenty Five and Ninety Seven paise only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/guarantor/mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantor/mortgager and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this **29th day of FEBRUARY of the year 2024**

The borrower/guarantor/mortgagor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned net to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for an amount of **Rs. 10,33,325.97** and interest thereon.

The borrower/guarantor/mortgagor's attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

All that part and parcel of Residential property bearing No.16, old No 42,1st Cross, Malik Saab Road, Ayodhyadasnagar, Bengaluru. **Bounded:** On the North by: 20th feet road, On the South by: Property belonging to Perumal and Panchakalyani, On the East by: ROAD, On the West by: Property belonging to Mohammed Sab.

Place: Bengaluru **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Date: 29.02.2024 **Canara Bank**

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904

Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail id :** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Ph :** 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **City Union Bank Ltd.,** having its **Administrative Office** at **No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612001** and one of the Branch Offices at **No.295, Main Road, Opp. Mayura Bakery, White Field, Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru-White Field Branch** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) & (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated **12-10-2023** calling upon the borrowers **No.1) Mr. T. Akshay Kumar, S/o. Thimmarayappa, No.105, Anugondanahalli, Medimallasandra, Bangalore Rural, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore - 560067. No.2) Mr. Thimmarayappa, S/o. Papanna, No.105, Anugondanahalli, Medimallasandra, Bangalore Rural, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore - 560067. No.3) Mrs. T. Amrutha, W/o. Thimmarayappa, No.105, Anugondanahalli, Medimallasandra, Bangalore Rural, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore - 560067** to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being **Rs.23,40,936/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Forty Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty Six only)** within **60 days** from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from **11-10-2023** with monthly rests.

The borrowers above named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers above named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 29th day of February 2024.

The borrowers above named in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd. for an amount of **Rs.24,00,563/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Five Hundred and Sixty Three only)** and interest thereon from **20-12-2023** till the repayment of entire dues.

The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank

Schedule - A

Property - 1 : (Property Owned by Mrs. T. Amrutha, W/o. Thimmarayappa)

All that Piece and parcel of the Property bearing Sl.No.270, Janjaru No.269, E-Khatha No.150300402700400372, Situated at Anugondanahalli Grama, Anugundanahalli Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Measuring : East to West 35 Feet, North to South 40 Feet and bounded on : East by : Way & Property belongs to Smt. Venkatalakhmamma, West by : Property belongs to Sri. Muniyappa, North by : Road, South by : Property belongs to Sri.Muniyappa & Smt.Yangamma.

Place : Bangalore, Date : 29-02-2024 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287, Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

CFM ASSET RECONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED (CFM-ARC)

Registered Office: Office: Block No. A/1003, West Gate, Near Ymca Club, Sur. No. 835/1+3, S.g.highway, Makarba, Ahmedabad-380051
Corporate Office: 1st Floor, Wakefield House, Sprott Road, Ballard Estate, Mumbai-400038.
Email: [eswarappa.s@cfmarc.in]
Contact: [7406666657]

CFM ARC thoughtful regeneration

Intimation for sale of Mortgaged Property by way of Private Treaty under SARFAESI Act, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of CFM Asset Reconstruction Pvt Ltd (Acting in its capacity as a Trustee of CFMARC Trust -67 L&T) through L&T Finance Limited, the Secured Creditor, will be sold through Private treaty, in accordance with the provisions of SARFAESI Act and the rules thereunder pursuant to the receipt of an offer for purchase of below mentioned Secured Asset at an aggregate amount of **Rs. 52,00,000/-** (Rupees Fifty Two Lacs only) on "As is where is basis", "as is what is basis", whatever is there is basis" and "No recourse Basis" on **21/03/2024,** for recovery of **Rs. 88,58,895.18/-** (Rupees Eighty Eight Lac Fifty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Five and Eighteen Paise) as on **01/03/2024** along with further interest, expenses, charges and other costs thereon due to the Secured Creditor from **Mr. SACHIN KRISHNA BHIRUD** (The Borrower) & **Mrs. KIRTE SACHIN BHIRUD** (Co-Borrower) bearing **Loan Agreement No.** BLRHL16001160, BLRHL16001334, BLRHL16001373 & BLRHL16001434.

Further we refer to public auctions dated **20-10-2023** with Reserve price of Rs. 91,21,000/- and Second Auction dated **28-12-2023** with Reserve price of **Rs. 82,10,000/-** which have failed due to lack of bidders. We therefore proposed to sell the aforesaid immovable property by way of private treaty at a reserve price of **Rs. 52,00,000/-** (Rupees Fifty Two Lacs only)

DETAILS OF PUBLIC AUCTION- SCHEDULE -I

DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSETS:	All That Piece And Parcel Of Property Address- Flat No- 05 On The Ground Floor In The Building "omega Aster" Bearing Converted Survey No. 88, Present Bbmp 59/88/1, No.d.a. 516/2013-14, Earlier Portion Of Bbmp Katha No. 59/88, No. Da/271/2013-14 Situated At Chokkamahalli Villege, Yelahanka Hobli Bangalore, Karnataka North Taluk, Bengaluru - 560064& Admeasuring 1040 Sq.ft Super Built Up Area Together With 374 Sq.ft Undivided Proportionate Share Of Land And Common Facilities. East By : Remaining Property In The Same Survey Number Belongs Mr. S. Raja & Others, West By : Flat No. G-08, North By : Flat No. G-04, South By : Flat No. G-10
RESERVE PRICE:	**Rs. 26,00,000/-** (Twenty Six Lacs Only)
PLACE OF SALE:	CFM-ARC, #001, Manito Commanders Marvel, Duo Marvel Layout, Ananthapura Road, Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560064
DATE OF SALE:	**21/03/2024**
SECURED DEBT:	Rs.88,58,895.18/- (Rupees Eighty Eight Lac Fifty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Five and Eighteen Paise) as on 01/03/2024 along with further interest, expenses, charges and other costs thereon due to the Secured Creditor.
Contact details of Authorized Officers :	Mr. Eswarappa S, Email –eswarappa.s@cfmarc.in, Mobile No.7406666657

DETAILS OF PUBLIC AUCTION- SCHEDULE -II

DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSETS:	All That Piece And Parcel Of Property Address- Flat No- 010 On The Ground Floor In The Building "omega Aster" Bearing Converted Survey No. 88, Present Bbmp 59/88/1, No.d.a. 516/2013-14, Earlier Portion Of Bbmp Katha No. 59/88, No. Da/271/2013-14 Situated At Chokkamahalli Villege, Yelahanka Hobli Bangalore, Karnataka North Taluk, Bengaluru - 560064& Admeasuring 1040 Sq.ft Super Built Up Area Together With 374 Sq.ft Undivided Proportionate Share Of Land And Common Facilities And One Car Parking Space East By : Remaining Property In The Same Survey Number Belongs Mr. S. Raja & Others, West By : Flat No. G-07, North By : Flat No. G-05, South By : Govt.rock
RESERVE PRICE:	**Rs. 26,00,000/-** (Twenty Six Lacs Only)
PLACE OF SALE:	CFM-ARC, #001, Manito Commanders Marvel, Duo Marvel Layout, Ananthapura Road, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, 560064
DATE OF SALE:	**21.03.2024**
SECURED DEBT:	Rs. 88,58,895.18/- (rupees Eighty Eight Lac Fifty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Five And Eighteen Paise) As On 01/03/2024 Along With Further Interest, Expenses, Charges And Other Costs Thereon Due To The Secured Creditor.
Contact details of Authorized Officers:	Mr. Eswarappa S, Email – eswarappa.s@cfmarc.in, Mobile No. 7406666657

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date : 04.03.2024 **Authorised Officer**
Place : Bangalore **CFM Asset Reconstruction Private Limited (Acting in its capacity as trustee of CFMARC Trust-67)**

₹1,500 CR have been infused by Foreign Portfolio Investors into Indian equities in February.

Investment lessons from Buffett's letter to shareholders

The 93-year-old investor says if one makes a couple of good decisions during a lifetime and avoids serious mistakes, her investment journey would be rewarding

DIPAK MONDAL @New Delhi

AMERICAN investor and businessman Warren Buffett's annual letter to shareholders is a thing of legend for the investment community. Buffett, who also co-founded Berkshire Hathaway, has a religious following among the investors community. Through Berkshire Hathaway, Buffett holds significant investments in many large US-based companies. His pieces of advice on investment, stock-picking and corporate governance, etc are held in high regard by investors across the globe.

Buffett has been writing annual letters to shareholders of Berkshire Hathaway since 1965 without a break. Despite his legend-like following and stature, Buffett and his investment philosophy has not been immune to criticism. Yet his annual letter to shareholders is widely written about and discussed. This year on 24 February, Buffett issued his letter to shareholders, sharing his investment tidbits, his views on his holdings through Berkshire Hathaway and also his investment philosophies. Investors treat these letters as an investment masterclass and use his tips for picking 'right' companies for investment.

We bring you some of the investment lessons from Warren Buffett's latest letter to shareholders.

Operating profit over net profit: According to Buffett, operating profit – profits earned purely from core operations of the company – is a better gauge of the company's financial health. Buffett says while net profit is reported more as a mandatory accounting practice, and is even widely transmitted, Berkshire Hathaway is more comfortable with operating profit. Operating profit excludes revenues from non-operating activities like sale of assets, investment and dividend earnings, gain from foreign exchange, etc. It also excludes non-operational expenses like interest payment on debt, cost of acquisition of assets. "The primary difference between the mandated figures (net profit) and the ones Berkshire (operating profits) prefers is that we exclude unrealised capital gains or losses that at times can exceed $5 billion a day," says Buffett in his letter to shareholders.

INVESTING ADVICE

- Operating profit – profits earned from core ops – is a better gauge of the firm's financial healths
- He believes in investing in firms that enjoy good economics that are fundamental and enduring
- Markets now exhibit far more casino-like behaviour, he says
- Patience pays, according to him, one wonderful business can offset the many mediocre decisions that are inevitable

Invest in businesses that enjoy good economics: Buffett has been a proponent of long-term investment, and he believes in investing in companies which enjoy good economics that are fundamental and enduring. "We want to own either all or a portion of businesses that enjoy good economics that are fundamental and enduring. Within capitalism, some businesses will flourish for a very long time while others will prove to be sinkholes. It's harder than you would think to predict which will be the winners and losers," says Buffett in his letter.

He also exhorts investors to stay away from pundits who claim to predict long-term winners or losers in the stock market. "And those who tell you they know the answer are usually either self-delusional or snake-oil salesmen," says the nonagenarian investor, who is also known as Oracle of Omaha. He further says: "At Berkshire, we particularly favour the rare enterprise that can deploy additional capital at high returns in the future.

Owning only one of these companies – and simply sitting tight – can deliver wealth almost beyond measure."

Never risk permanent loss of capital: Buffett says occasionally, markets and/or the economy will cause stocks and bonds of some large and fundamentally good businesses to be strikingly mispriced. And with the speed of communication and the wonders of technology, such shocks could immediately facilitate instant worldwide paralysis. He says that such instant panics won't happen often, but they will happen, and investors must have the wherewithal to withstand those shocks without causing permanent damage. "For whatever reasons, markets now exhibit far more casino-like behavior than they did when I was young. The casino now resides in many homes and daily tempts the occupants," he says.

While the 93-year-old investor does not mention derivatives in his letter, the mention of casino-like behaviour could be an indication to investors getting attracted to the derivatives market and losing all their money trading in options. Buffett had famously called derivatives the financial weapon of mass destruction. Buffett says if one makes a couple of good decisions during a lifetime and avoids serious mistakes, her investment journey would be rewarding thanks to the power of compounding.

When you find a truly wonderful business, stick with it: Patience pays, and one wonderful business can offset the many mediocre decisions that are inevitable, says Buffett. He says this in reference to two of his large investments – Coca-Cola and AMEX. "These are not huge commitments like our Apple position. Each only accounts for 4-5% of Berkshire's GAAP net worth. But they are meaningful assets and also illustrate our thought processes," says Buffett.

MONEY MATTERS

INDIA NEEDS WOMEN TO DO BETTER WITH MONEY

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

THERE is euphoria about India's economic growth soaring over the next few years. The latest growth data suggests that India is the fastest-growing economy in the world. New investors are discovering India's stock market, the fourth most valuable in the world, which continues to offer potential for future growth. New money is predicted to hit Indian stock and bond markets due to the attractive headline numbers on economic growth, government finances and corporate profits. Yet, India's economy is always pulled back by gender inequality in the workforce.

Women's participation in the workforce is at 37% compared to 23% five years ago, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey Report 2022-23 released by the government in October 2023. While it has shown a positive change, it is lower than 60% in China and 47% global average. As you hear a lot of noise about International Women's Day, gender equality, and participation in the celebrations at your workplace, you need to know that a lot more needs to be done to encourage the active participation of women in the workforce.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Studies have shown a trend that women's participation in the workforce declines with prosperity. That is a very India-specific phenomenon. If India grows at a robust rate over the next 15 years, women's participation in the workforce should ideally surge. However, behavioural studies have shown that women are not considered the primary breadwinners. Their income is secondary to the household; families expect them to sit at home if things are going well. Such behaviour is why India's economy performs way below the potential.

If female participation in the workforce stagnates, it could create problems in the future. Just like men, women should feel safe to go out and work at their place of choice. They should get a secure environment to perform and apply their skills.

Women and personal finances

An increase in women's participation in the workforce means more women in the investing world, too. A survey of 4,000 Indian women in 2022 by LXME, a financial platform for women and research firm Axis, found that women prefer gold, fixed deposits and provident funds as investments. The survey also showed fewer working women invest directly in the stock market or through mutual funds. That is another contributor to the below potential performance of India's economy. The other key finding from the survey was that women rely on others to invest. Fewer women make informed decisions on any kind of asset allocation.

If you are a working woman, you must take steps towards controlling your finances. Surveys have shown that many women invest their savings through their spouses or relatives. While it may be a household need or practice, you must slowly work towards taking control of it.

Instead of working with relatives, you can engage a professional advisor to help you define your financial goals and channel your savings to align with your goals. You need to sit with your spouse and actively determine the asset allocation for your household income. In the past, women saved up cash at home for household expenses. However, an event like demonetisation made much of that 'secret stash' redundant. Many women could not disclose details about their savings to their families and lost savings.

You need not be shy about your intentions with money. The same survey in 2022 showed that women primarily invest for family security or children's education. It is time to break free of restrictions. If you cannot manage your own money, you are not free.

If you are a man, you must accept that your working spouse shares the household responsibility in her way. Together, you need to build a future for your family. If that means she needs to follow her instincts towards investing, you are better off trusting them. That is the best you could do to celebrate Women's Day. Experience in America shows that women make better investors than men in the long run. If that holds for a mature market, it can be repeated in India too, as it hits the 'Amritkaal'.

MONEY-WISE

STUDY AND CONSIDER MULTI-CAP FUNDS

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR

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(Views expressed here are personal)

Investors often seek a slice of every category of market capitalisation while investing in the market. One of the ways of achieving this objective is to study and consider multi-cap funds.

As its title suggests, these are equity mutual funds that do not focus on a particular capitalisation category of companies but invest across multiple sectors and capitalisations. This makes them more diverse providing balanced exposure when compared to other traditional equity mutual fund schemes like Large or Mid-Cap or Small-Cap funds. While fund managers have the freedom to invest across different market capitalisations, in September 2020, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) revised its earlier norms and asked the fund houses to invest a minimum of 25% each in large-cap, mid-cap and small-cap stocks in their respective multi cap schemes. The remaining portion that the fund has can be invested across market-caps or in debt and money market instruments.Before this announcement, the fund managers in this category were free to choose stocks across market-capitalisation categories sans any upper or lower threshold. There was no minimum or maximum restriction on how much they were investing in large, mid, or small-cap companies. While multi-cap funds can potentially outperform large-cap and mid-cap funds when the markets are on the ascent, they remain subject to market volatility because, at any given point, they must have 50% exposure to mid-cap and small-cap stocks.

Multi-cap funds do however offer relative flexibility to the fund manager to switch between stocks and accord additional or lesser weightage to stocks of a particular market capitalisation, depending on the fund manager's reading of the market trend, in order to achieve higher returns. Like every Equity category fund, multi-cap funds have a long-term investment horizon and tend to accentuate risk if invested for short-time frames, given that market volatility has greater impact in the near-term. Taxation of multi-cap funds is no different from any other equity MF. If one sells their investments within 1 year, the gains are classified as Short Term Capital Gain (STCG) and 15% tax is payable. Whereas, for any multi cap investment held for more than one year, the gains are classified as Long Term Capital Gain (LTCG). Such gains of up to ₹1 lakh in a financial year are tax free. Beyond ₹1 lakh, LTCG is taxed at the rate of 10%.

The primary feature and advantage of investing in multi cap funds is diversification. Multi-cap funds and Flexi cap funds are two variants of an equity fund that invest across market capitalisations. Of the two, multi-cap is perceived (not necessarily rightly) to be relatively safer as the market cap segregation is already provided by SEBI, while in a flexi-cap fund, the fund manager has the freedom to invest in any proportion across different market capitalisations. More importantly, while investing in MFs, investors must not only focus on increasing returns but also on reducing risks.

Flipkart launches UPI handle, partners with Axis

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @Bengaluru

WITH UPI emerging as the preferred payment option, ecommerce marketplace Flipkart has launched its UPI handle. The UPI offering will enable smooth onboarding and allow users to conveniently avail of the feature for online and offline merchant transactions within and outside the Flipkart marketplace, the company said.

It also introduced one-click and quick functionalities for recharges and bill payments. With the new UPI feature, customers will get an intuitive, safe, and convenient digital payment experience through its integrated checkout funnel and a slew of incentives including the benefit of instant refunds, making the transaction process a hassle-free, the company added. In 2023, UPI processed over 117 billion transactions worth ₹ 182.84 lakh crore, showcasing a dynamic landscape with participation from banks, payment service providers, and fintech companies.Dheeraj Aneja, Senior Vice President - Fintech and Payments Group at Flipkart, said,"Recognising the dynamic digital landscape, the launch of Flipkart UPI seamlessly merges the convenience and cost-effectiveness of UPI with the trusted efficiency customers expect from us."

On the Flipkart app, Flipkart UPI can be used to pay for any product or service, including e-commerce transactions, Scan and Pay to UPI ID, and Recharges and Bill payments.

In its first phase, Flipkart has partnered with Axis Bank.

Sanjeev Moghe, President & Head - Cards & Payments, Axis Bank, said, "Axis Bank has always been at the forefront of extending multiple payments flows of UPI to its customers. We continue to scale our growth in UPI with partnerships and innovations." Customers can register for UPI with @fkaxis handle and can do all fund transfers and checkout payments using the Flipkart app, he added. The ecommerce platform has a registered user base of over 500 million.

SEMICONDUCTOR

'Big chip players to re-work investment plan'

PTI @ New Delhi

INDIA has set its sights on becoming a formidable force in global semiconductor equation, rivalling known destinations like Taiwan, S Korea in next 5 years, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has said asserting that if and when mindset of global players has changed to an eagerness to invest in the country.

The minister for IT and electronics said he is of the firm belief that practically every big player would now like to reconsider their investment plans and come to India, given the carefully-crafted policies here. India will build on its design capabilities, where the country already has inherent and proven mettle and, notably, nearly one-third of the global talent. That piece alongside the proposed fab (chip fabrication plant) and the 3 ATMP (assembly and test) units in India now brings together the key elements of semiconductor value chain, effectively, according to him.

Markets to remain bullish this week: Experts

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AS India's equity market benchmark indices - Sensex and Nifty50 - hit record high levels last week as better-than-expected Q3 GDP data propelled fresh buying, market experts are hopeful that the bullish momentum will continue in the coming sessions as well. The fresh buying is also supported by chances of an interest rate cut after the latest US inflation data, gain in Nifty Bank and foreign institutional investors (FIIs) hitting a pause button on their selling spree.

The Nifty50 and Sensex closed last week at 22,378.40 and 73,806.15 levels, respectively. Nifty, Sensex and Bank Nifty gained for the third straight week. On the sectoral front, all sectoral indices ended higher except Media, Pharma and IT.

Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart said that Nifty50 is resuming its bullish momentum after a period of two months of consolidation. "22500 is an immediate target level, while 22,750 is the next target level. On the downside, 22200–22000 will now act as a strong demand zone. Bank Nifty is gaining momentum and is likely to outperform from here. 47500 is an immediate hurdle; above this, we can expect a move towards 48000/48800 levels. On the downside, 46600–46300 will act as a strong support zone," added Meena.

Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking is eyeing 22,800 level in Nifty now, thus participants should continue with a 'buy on dips' approach until it breaks 21,900. "We feel the participation of the banking pack would continue to play a critical role in maintaining the prevailing momentum while others may play a supportive part on a rotational basis. Traders should maintain a stock-specific approach and prefer index majors and large midcap counters for long trades," said Mishra.

Meena said that key upcoming events, such as the release of the US ISM services PMI on March 5, 2024, testimony by US Fed Chair Powell, and the announcement of JOLTS job openings on March 6, 2024, along with the US unemployment rate on March 8, 2024, will be closely watched for their potential impact on market sentiment. "Crude oil is also inching higher, and any negative surprise from there can disturb the mood of the market. However, the market is ignoring any bad news and continuing its bullish momentum... Domestically, attention will be focused on political developments leading up to parliamentary elections," Meena said. Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said that while robust economic data boosted confidence in the Indian economy, concerns lingered regarding the RBI's policy decisions amidst high liquidity and inflation worries. "On the global front, in-line US personal consumption expenditure data and benign Euro zone inflation may influence global central banks to take a dovish view on interest rates. US bond yields dipped after the inflation data release, also supporting the equity market," added Nair. The analyst believes that a correction in mid- and small-cap caps is underway and expected to continue, with regulators urging disclosure of associated risks to AMCs.

Meanwhile, India's IPO market will a busy week as eight initial public offerings are set to open for subscription while seven companies are scheduled for listing on the exchanges. Among the ongoing mainboard issues, Mukka Proteins' IPO will close for bidding on Monday. So far, this issue has been subscribed by nearly 7 times. RK Swamy IPO, JG Chemicals IPO, Gopal Namkeen IPO will be available for subscription this week.

Pucovski suffers concussion after taking blow on head

Australian batter Will Pucovski suffered a nasty blow on his head and had to be substituted while playing for Victoria in a Sheffield Shield match against Tasmania in Hobart on Sunday. The No. 3 batter retired hurt for 0 after being hit on his helmet from a Riley Meredith bouncer. It was just the second delivery he faced in Victoria's chase of 442.

Rise of Rohit - the Test captain

Despite the initial stumbling blocks, Sharma is beginning to make his mark in the longest format

GOMESH S @ Dharamsala

EVERY captain has unique traits on the field. Sometimes it changes from format to format. It was the case even for MS Dhoni, who is arguably one of the greatest white-ball skippers, when he was found wanting in Test cricket. Rohit Sharma's rise to captaincy is a tad similar.

For someone who made a name in the shortest format at the Indian Premier League before ascending to white-ball and red-ball captaincy, Rohit is different from Dhoni in a couple of ways. Unlike Dhoni, who largely relies on instincts (at least that is what it seems like), Rohit's strength lies in preparing and going in with plan A, B and C. The other difference is when you look at Dhoni on the field, you might not get a read on him. His poker face will tell you nothing about what is he thinking or how he will react to the match situation.

Meanwhile, one look at Rohit and you will see that there are no filters. When the session or game is not going India's way, you can see it in his face. He will be worked up sometimes, and on other occasions, it would feel like he is just going through the motions without much planning or adaptation. It was quite evident during the ongoing five-match rubber against visiting England. In fact, for the better part of the Test series, that is how it felt.

Rohit-led India were caught off guard in Hyderabad when England came hard at them. Questions were asked and rightly so. Then in Visakhapatnam, they got the combination right and the rest was taken care of by Jasprit Bumrah and Jaiswal. In Rajkot, however, Rohit had to do something on day three. He did not have R Ashwin, England were running away with their batting. This time, he came better prepared. After reading the surface better on day two, Kuldeep Yadav bowled wider lines making Ben Duckett reach, then after lunch, the field changed. They attacked the stumps, had close-in fielders. End result — Mohammed Siraj took four wickets as India gained a 146-run lead. From thereon, there was looking back.

Skipper Rohit Sharma (4th from left) celebrates an England wicket in Ranchi | PTI

India took lead, came to Ranchi. Once again, Rohit and head coach Rahul Dravid read the conditions and devised plans accordingly. While it seemed like England took the first day — credit to Joe Root — and India conceded a tad more than they should have, they went back to the drawing board and came up with better plans. England were all out in a couple of sessions on day three with Ashwin and Kuldeep adapting to the surface.

In sports, which operates in a hyperbole more often than not, captaincy is an intricate concept, especially in cricket. When things are going the team's way, it would seem like the captain is waving a magic wand and when it doesn't the same person might look clueless if they don't react on the field. Take Ben Stokes for example, he would constantly try something or other — of course with a logic behind it — and the conversations would revolve around how proactive he is. On the other hand, Rohit, who does a lot by the book with set pieces, might seem passive when he is not reacting every over. The scoreline, at the moment, reads India 3-1 England.

This is not to say Rohit is a better captain than X, Y, Z but to establish the fact that he had better answers for the most important question — how to take 20 wickets in a Test? To be honest, Rohit, even with the resources at hand, didn't in Hyderabad, and to an extent in Vizag as well. But when pushed back, he went to work out better plans and the result is there to see. Even Rohit himself admitted the challenges posed by this England team after Ranchi win. "..certainly, we knew before the series started that it is going to be a challenging series, and England is going to play slightly different cricket than the rest of the teams who have come here, and to be honest, they have found some success as well, in playing that way, but I thought we were quite composed in what we wanted to do as a batting unit, as a bowling unit, and I thought in the end we were rewarded with that," he said.

In the lead up to the series, among the key talking points was Rohit's captaincy. Although he was named as Test captain in early 2022, Rohit had already missed three of the 14 matches India had played, including one against England in England. He was coming from a series levelling performance in South Africa, but this series, and the year (10 home Tests) in general, was going to determine where he stands as a Test skipper. And unlike his predecessor — Kohli — who took over a transitioning team in his mid-20s, Rohit, at 36, does not have the luxury of time to learn and grow into the job before imprinting his legacy in the longest format.

Having already lost one World Test Championship final, the upcoming cycle is perhaps his best chance of doing it. Despite the initial stumbles, Rohit has gotten it together and in the process has found some youngsters for the future as well. How he will go in Australia and thereafter is unknown. But for now, he has made a mark both as captain and leader.

TRAINING SESSIONS CANCELLED

Even as both India and England arrived in Dharamsala on Sunday, the weather forecast does not look promising. There were intermittent rains throughout the day and the temperature was lingering between 6-8 degrees Celsius. Which is why, it comes as no surprise that both teams have cancelled their practice sessions scheduled for Monday. The fifth and final Test begins on Thursday.

GT'S ROBIN MEETS WITH ACCIDENT

Jharkhand's Robin Minz, who was signed by Gujarat Titans for ₹3.6 crore, is understood to have met with a bike accident in Ranchi. While it is learnt that he is not in danger, Robin is currently under observation in the hospital. The left-handed wicketkeeper batter was supposed to join the Titans pre-season camp after the last round of Col CK Nayudu Trophy matches.

RANJI SEMIS

Shardul slams timely century to power Mumbai vs Tamil Nadu

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

SHARDUL Thakur's maiden first-class century could not have come at a more appropriate time. Entering the field at No 9, the 32-year-old slammed 105-ball 109 to help Mumbai bag a big lead of 207 runs over Tamil Nadu on Day 2 of the semifinals of the Ranji Trophy at the BKC complex, Mumbai on Sunday.

Mumbai were 353 for 9 in 100 overs when stumps were drawn. Apart from Thakur, Musheer Khan's 55 and Tanush Kotian, who remained not out on 74, served Mumbai's cause and in the bargain, frustrated the visitors.

After a poor display with the bat on the opening day, Tamil Nadu had entered the second morning with hopes to put up a better show. And they did show signs of promise, after reducing the home side to 125/7 at Lunch. Ajinkya Rahane fell to R Sai Kishore's guile while Shreyas Iyer succumbed to Sandeep Warrier's raw pace.

However, Thakur's counter-attacking innings spoiled TN's plans. Thakur, who has shown glimpses of his batting talent in the white-ball format, proved that he could be counted upon as a bowling all-rounder in the red-ball format as well. Employing a positive approach, he was taking on both the seamers and spinners and was finding the gaps on the field with ease. He drove, pulled and swept with relish and was spot on with his shot selection.

Shardul Thakur's 109 gave Mumbai 207-run lead with 1 wicket in hand | PTI

BRIEF SCORES (SEMIFINALS)

Tamil Nadu 146 vs Mumbai 353/9 in 100 ovs (Musheer Khan 55, Shardul Thakur 109, Tanush Kotian 74 batting; R Sai Kishore 6/97). Vidarbha 170 & 13/1 in 4 ovs (Avesh Khan 1/2) vs Madhya Pradesh 252 in 94.3 ovs (Himanshu Mantri 126; Umesh Yadav 3/40, Yash Thakur 3/51, Akshay Wakhare 2/68).

"It was a good effort from Shardul. He played positively and aggressively. There were a couple of half-chances that went here and there. But he was destined to score and thus, managed to do so," Sai Kishore, captain of Tamil Nadu, said after the day's play. Thakur continued to pile the pressure on the TN bowlers and forged two vital partnerships, which could have a bearing on the match.

Thakur first teamed up with Hardik Tamore (35) and added a crucial 105-run stand for the eighth wicket and later took Mumbai further ahead along with Kotian, adding another 79 runs for the ninth wicket.

"By the time Thakur came, the wicket became good to bat and thus, they could score runs. With the ball coming on to the bat well, it was, at times, tough to contain them," said Sai Kishore. He tried every trick in the book to stop Mumbai. Both he and S Ajith Ram bowled outside the leg stump line to contain the run flow but found little success.

Entering the contest with a 232-run stand for the 10th wicket in their previous match, Kotian and Deshpande (17 n.o) carried on from where they had left to put on a 63-run unbeaten stand for the 10th wicket on the day. "Our job is to take the last wicket quickly on Monday. I hope we do well (bat to potential) for the major part of the next two days and then take it from there," Sai Kishore assessed.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Olympic qualifiers: Boxers Deepak & Narender crash out

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

In a massive blow for India, boxers Deepak Bhoria and Narender Berwal, taking part in the World Olympic Boxing Qualification Tournament in Busto Arsizio, lost their very first-round bouts on Sunday.

The first boxer from the country to enter the ring in the Olympic qualification event, Deepak (51kg) was one of the big names in the team and was expected to challenge for medals. He did put up a strong fight but still fell short on the day against Huseynov Nijat of Azerbaijan. The Indian lost by split decision (3-2).

This is not the start the Indian camp would have hoped for. Deepak was picked over Amit Panghal, who is a more renowned pugilist. Panghal, after a disastrous campaign in the Tokyo Olympics, has been in the shadows but he has shown signs of revival in recent times. National title in December and a gold medal in the recent Strandja Memorial event in Bulgaria being a case in point. But Deepak had impressed the coaches during the national camp and retained his No 1 spot in the 51kg to be part of this event.

Later, Narender, who had come closest to challenging for a quota spot during the Asian Games last year, also lost to crash out. The +92kg boxer lost against Germany's Nelvie Tiafack by unanimous verdict (5-0).

Deepak Bhoria

Nelvie, the 2022 European Championships gold medallist, dominated the first round as he pocketed the game by 4-1 margin. Narender did try to cover the lost ground in the next two rounds, but he could not bridge the gap.

The Indian men boxers are yet to win a single quota so far. This is the second-last qualification event before the quadrennial event in Paris. Nine boxers (7 men and 2 women) from the country are taking part in this event.

On Monday, national champion Lakshya Chahar (80kg) will start his campaign in the Round of 64 clash against Iran's Gheshlaghi Meysam.

A total of 49 quotas (21 for women, 28 for men) are up for grabs during the event.

India have four quotas (all women) so far.

EXPRESS READ

Race walker Goswami finishes creditable 7th

NEW DELHI: National record holder Priyanka Goswami clocked her best time outside the country to finish a creditable seventh in a top-class field in the 20km event at the Chinese Race Walking Grand Prix in Taicang on Sunday. Goswami, who has already qualified for the Paris Olympics, clocked 1 hour 29 minutes and 48 seconds to end the gruelling competition at seventh in the World Athletics Race Walking Tour gold label meet.

Praggnanandhaa checkmates Gujrathi

PRAGUE: Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa crashed through the defenses of compatriot Vidit Gujrathi but D Gukesh suffered a shock defeat against Czech Republic's David Navara in the fifth round of the Prague Masters. Uzbekistan's Nodirbek Abdusattarov continued with his dream run and ran over Mateusz Bartel of Poland to emerge as the sole leader ahead of Parham Maghsoodloo of Iran, who played out a draw with Richard Rapport.

Lanning, Jonassen help Delhi beat Gujarat

BENGALURU: Captain Meg Lanning's fifty and a cunning spell of left-arm spin by Jess Jonassen drove Delhi Capitals to a 25-run victory over Gujarat Giants in the Women's Premier League (WPL) on Sunday. Lanning (55) was Capitals' guiding force to 163 for eight. The Giants' chase never grew wings, ending up with 138 for eight despite Ashleigh Gardner's 40. **Brief scores:** DC 163/8 in 20 ovs (Lanning 55; Meghana 4/37 bt GG 138/8 in 20 ovs (Gardner 40; Jonassen 3/22).

Man City's Phil Foden celebrates after scoring against Man United | AFP

Foden scores twice as City sink United

AGENCIES @ Manchester

PHIL Foden scored twice as Manchester City came from behind to beat Manchester United 3-1 on Sunday and close to within one point of Premier League leaders Liverpool. Erling Haaland also struck in stoppage time to leave the title race perfectly poised ahead of City's trip to Liverpool next weekend. Marcus Rashford's wonder strike had fired United into a shock lead at the Etihad.

Haaland was then guilty of a miss that will go down in Premier League folklore when he fired over with an open goal just before half-time. Foden ensured City did not slip up in the title race as he blasted into the top corner to level and produced a composed finish 10 minutes from time. Haaland then rolled in his sixth goal against United. An 11th league defeat of the season for United leaves Erik ten Hag's men 11 points adrift of the top four with 11 games remaining. Results: Man City 3-1 Man United; Burnley 0-2 Bournemouth.

Leverkusen extend lead

BERLIN: Bayer Leverkusen tightened their grip at the top of the Bundesliga with a 2-0 victory over Cologne to pull 10 points clear of Bayern Munich.

Chennaiyin stun table-toppers Odisha

AGENCIES/ENS @ Chennai

JORDAN Murray scored a late goal as Chennaiyin FC handed Odisha FC their first loss in their last 13 Indian Super League games on Sunday.

Playing at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium here, Murray scored in the fourth minute of stoppage time to help the home side win 2-1 and fetch three valuable points in the process. It is a result that will have ramifications across the points table. Mumbai City FC (35) and Mohun Bagan Super Giant (33) now have a good chance to displace Odisha FC (35) from the top. Simultaneously, it has brought the tenth-placed Chennaiyin level on points (18) with the sixth-placed Bengaluru FC. More importantly, the Owen Coyle-coached side have a game in hand.

Chennaiyin FC produced one of their most coordinated performances right from the back to the front, barring a brief moment of lack of concentration, when they conceded an equaliser. Ankit Mukherjee drew the first blood from a set-piece five minutes into the game, with Rafael Crivellaro picking the fullback amidst a crowded box on the near post on the right side. Mukherjee charged inside and beat competition from the towering Mourtada Fall to drill the ball into the back of the net. Odisha FC tested the Chennaiyin FC resolve later on, with domestic stars Amey Ranawade and Isak Vanlalruatfela teasing Debjit Majumder through close-range efforts.

Jordan Murray scored in the 4th minute of stoppage time to help CFC win 2-1 | ISL

In the 39th minute, Roy Krishna teamed up with Ranawade on the right side of the box, but the fullback's shot on the near post was thwarted by Majumder to keep scores level. Six minutes later, the crafty Ahmed Jahouh launched in a long ball from the centre of the park for Isak. The winger controlled well before taking a shot but could not beat Majumder's reflexes.

Wind in her sails: After Asiad experience, Ishwariya chasing Oly dream

KALYANI MANGALE @ Chennai

AFTER becoming the first female RS:X windsurfer to qualify for the Asian Games in Hangzhou, Ishwariya Ganesh hopes to make it big with the qualification for the 2024 Olympics. With the Last Chance Regatta in Hyeres, France coming soon, the Chennai native spoke with the daily about her childhood, experience at the Asian Games, and more. Excerpts...

● On her upbringing

I have always been a sporty kid. I have tried many sports like horse riding, karate, archery and shooting everything.

But sailing is something that kept challenging me and there is a lot to learn. It's a completely different world. There's something new to it every day. That's what inspired me. Me and my brother started together and we compete together now. We help each other on land and we fight on water.

● On difficulties involved in the sport

Windsurfing alone is very different from sailing. This IQ Foil is way more different. So each of the boats in sailing are very different from the other. We can't say that you spend so many years in one boat and it should come easy for the other boats but it doesn't work like that because the principle behind every boat is very different. Maybe we're catching the wind, maybe we're surfing through the waist, but how we steer it and how we dig up, everything is different with each boat. Windsurfing is more like on the water, but IQ foil lifts above the surface. There's more to learn and more fun, but it can be more risky.

● On her experience at the Asian Games

Having the name of our country behind our backs is something empowering and motivating. It's not just you. You are representing a country. It is a dream of so many athletes. So we have to make use of the chance we have got. We were excluded from the main village because of our event. I didn't get to meet a lot of people. The beach volleyball and sailing teams were so far away from the main village. So we met sailing athletes from various countries and various classes of sports. It was a fun experience. Representing your country in the Olympics would be the ultimate goal of any athlete I would say. We are trying our best to make this time. In March and April, there is the Last Chance Regatta in Hyeres, France to get a qualification for the Olympics.

● On the off-field challenges

Not a lot of people know about this sport. So it's difficult to find coaches, nutrition and everything else that comes with the sport. You have to do it on your own. It's not like you can look up to someone and ask how you should get it done. It's very unique and at the same time, expensive too. So without the support of family and recently with the help from GoSports and Dream Sports Foundation helping me out, it's not very easy. If you have a love for the sport, you will always find the way. There are going to be struggles, but its all worth it once you make it through it.

● Practising in her hometown, Chennai

As a kid, I used to spend all my weekends at the beach and, once I started sailing, I have not looked at the beach the same way.

Every time I look at the waves I'll be like these are nice conditions to surf and if the winds are good or if I missed that in training today. I have not looked at the beach like I did before. It's great that I get to train in my hometown. For me, no other place can come close to this. I have not looked back at it the same way as I did before. It's great that I get to train in my hometown. For me, no other place can come close to this.

Charm of Central varsities

Students share how central universities will never lose their sheen and will remain aspirational for generations to come

By studying at central universities, one can acquaint themselves with varied cultures as students from various states come together to study at these central universities. The facilities offered by central universities may not be at par with other universities, but the value these central universities hold is much higher

— Arya S, MSc, Geography and Geoinformatics, Central University of Karnataka

The institution where I study has a friendly environment and knowledgeable teachers who understand our needs. An advantage of studying at a central university includes affordable education at a low cost. In a central university it does not matter whether the student is rich or poor, it fulfils the criterion of education for all

— Lamath Jabin PV, MA Psychology, Central University of Punjab

Central universities have a certain prestige attached to them. My varsity has a well-equipped library with papers and books available free of cost. These varsities have a long history of academic excellence, distinguished faculty members, and robust research programmes. When compared to private and state-funded varsities, central varsities have a better repute

— Shalini Singh, BA, Allahabad University

Central universities tend to have a diverse student population, fostering rich intellectual exchange. Given their long-standing legacy, their alumni network is robust which benefits students' career prospects and personal development. They enjoy excellence and popularity, despite lagging in curriculum upgrades and infrastructure improvements

— Kiranprava Biswal, MA, English, The English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Lucknow campus

At JNU, we pay around ₹200 tuition fees per semester, this has made the dream of availing quality higher education possible for students like me. With private universities, it is not so. What is education after all, if not ensuring social mobility and accessibility for those who have been denied these opportunities?

— Dhananjay, PhD, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi

While looking for universities to pursue my master's, I looked at various options, both private and central. I decided to go with Delhi University because of its rich and decorated history, and subsidised education. Even with many shortcomings, students still choose central universities for their history of quality and affordable education

— Felix Nehgoulien Haokip, MA Geography, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University

Central universities are preferred as they are funded by the Centre and have access to comparatively better facilities. Many enter into multiple collaborations with other varsities. Central universities get research grants from the Centre to work on projects ranging from Textual Cartography to Engineering and Technology

— A Padmanabha Reddy, MA English, St Stephen's College, DU

A central university provides an environment that ensures holistic development. At EFLU Hyderabad, the facilities available are quite up to the mark. The research work is at par with the current academic trends that prevail globally. The sports facilities as well as other extra-curricular activities make campus life very engaging and productive

— Shradhanjali Mahapatra, MA English (CAFETERIA), EFLU, Hyderabad

My preference was central universities, even over any other university, because they provide better exposure and opportunity to learn from such qualified and experienced teachers, that too at an affordable cost. What is unique is that one gets to work or interact with students from diversified strata of society

— Rakhi Singh, BA Political Science, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Chhattisgarh

CUET PG 2023 — CONDUCTED FROM JUNE 5, 2023 TO JULY 6, 2023

4,58,774 Unique registered candidates

8,77,492 Number of tests administered

Number of participating universities: 197

- 39 Central universities
- 45 State government universities
- 10 Government institutions
- 103 Others (private and deemed universities)

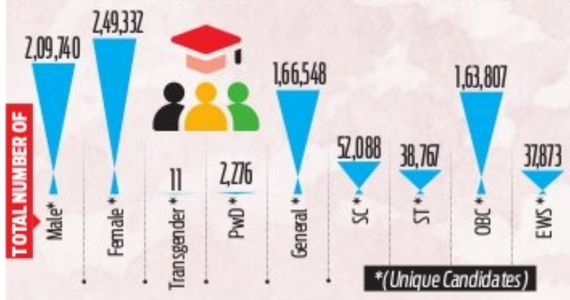
Candidates applied for 4,597 courses which were tested under 157 question paper codes

Total number of question papers: 396

Number of questions: 45,875

CONDUCTED IN 279 CITIES IN INDIA

Conducted in 7 cities outside of India: Doha, Dubai, Manama, Muscat, Riyadh, Sharjah, and Bagmati



- Number of mediums (languages): 02
- Number of cities where the exam was conducted: 279
- Number of phases: 02
- Maximum number of candidates appeared for BEd: 30,436

CUET in numbers

THE THIRD EDITION OF CUET IS ALMOST HERE. BEFORE WE LOOK FORWARD, LET'S LOOK BACK AT CUET 2022 AND 2023 IN NUMBERS

CUET PG 2022 — CONDUCTED FROM SEPTEMBER 1 TO 7, 2022 AND SEPTEMBER 9 TO 12, 2022

CUET PG WAS VOLUNTARY FOR UNIVERSITIES

TOTAL NUMBER OF UNIVERSITIES PARTICIPATED **66** (INCLUDING 27 CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES)

Total number of examination centres: **70**

Conducted in **269** Indian cities

Conducted in **4 cities** outside India

NUMBER OF STUDENTS REGISTERED: **6,07,648**

NUMBER OF STUDENTS APPEARED: **3,34,997**

TOTAL NUMBER OF FEMALE CANDIDATES: **3,02,155**

General:	1,13,030
EWS:	20,934
OBC-NCL:	1,09,039
SC:	31,551
ST:	27,601

TOTAL NUMBER OF MALE CANDIDATES: **3,05,478**

General:	84,255
EWS:	33,724
OBC-NCL:	1,26,329
SC:	37,600
ST:	23,570

Total number of transgender candidates: 01 (General 09, OBC-NCL 06)

OVERALL HIGHEST SCORE RECORDED IN POLITICAL SCIENCE: **355**

OVERALL LOWEST SCORE RECORDED IN RIGVEDA: **66**

CUET UG WILL REMAIN MOST-SOUGHT AFTER ENTRANCE TEST: UGC CHIEF

CUET is around the corner and to make note of what's new with the exam this time, Lovely Majumdar and Harsha Tallapragada speak to the University Grants Commission Chairman, Prof Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar

AHEAD of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET), University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar shares insights regarding the third edition of the CUET and the strategies students should incorporate while preparing for the entrance exam. According to the National Testing Agency (NTA), CUET Postgraduate (PG) is scheduled to be held from March 11, 2024 to March 28, 2024. This edition has witnessed a total of 4.6 lakh student registrations, which marks a slight increase from last year's 4.5 lakh registrations. The CUET for the undergraduate (UG) courses is scheduled to be held from May 15 to May 31, 2024.

Excerpts from our conversation:

● CUET is entering its third year. How do you look back at this?

The introduction of CUET-UG has changed the landscape of undergraduate admissions in India. With nearly 290 universities adopting it and a growing number of students sitting for CUET-UG, this test has become a new normal. It is very popular among the students.

The number of students admitted through CUET-UG is significantly larger than those admitted through either the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) or National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET).

● CUET-UG this year will be conducted in a hybrid mode. Certainly, this is a much-needed step to make the exam more inclusive. But do you anticipate any challenges in this path?

We do not foresee any significant challenges in switching to the hybrid mode. NTA is working on the possibility of conducting papers with large registrations in OMR mode. This will help us choose a large number of schools as test centres to ensure that students get a centre within their town or city and do not have to travel too far.

Using the hybrid mode, that is, paper and pencil for papers with large number of registrations, and computer-based tests for papers with smaller number of registrations, will ensure that CUET-UG can be conducted in a shorter duration, unlike in the last two years. Hybrid mode promotes equal opportunities for all, ensuring that geographical constraints do not hinder students' educational aspirations in rural and remote areas.

Additionally, the hybrid mode acknowledges the importance of adapting to diverse testing environments for the convenience of the students. This will ensure that we can announce the results by the third week of June 2024. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) can then conduct admissions and start the academic session by the end of July 2024 or the beginning of August 2024.

● In an approximation, the number of students registering for CUET-PG saw a decline in its second year. Why do you think this happened?

CUET-PG is not mandatory for central universities, unlike the CUET-UG. In addition, from year to year, the number of students taking CUET-PG may vary due to increasing job opportunities after completing their UG programmes. In any case, it is hard to draw any conclusions so early since we have completed only the third edition of CUET-PG.

● Students have been complaining about the sudden hike in fees for the CUET-PG application this year, with an additional fee of ₹600 per paper. Do you think that this can be limiting for a certain section of students?

NTA conducts the CUET tests on a no-loss, no-profit basis. The application fee is structured to cover the costs incurred by NTA for conducting the tests. Therefore, NTA tries to keep the application fee as low as possible.

Even if CUET-UG is used for undergraduate admissions, all central universities strictly follow the reservation policies. They go through multiple cycles of merit lists and try to fill all the seats. CUET-UG provides a level playing field to the students, irrespective of their socio-economic or geographical status. Many universities have experienced increased diversity of students on their campuses, which is a positive development.

Students from rural areas, who otherwise would have thought it impossible to get into some of the best universities, now get that opportunity because of CUET-UG.

● The concept of the 'One Nation One Exam' has been successfully put into praxis with the introduction of CUET. With the progression of time, can we expect a merger of NEET UG, JEE Main, and CUET soon?

The first time we introduced CUET-UG in 2022, there was no resistance but questions and doubts about CUET-UG. I very frequently met the media and clarified those doubts. We used social media extensively and reached out to the students, teachers and parents to clarify their doubts.

Looking back, I feel delighted that we have introduced CUET-UG, and surely, it will remain the most sought-after entrance test as years pass by.

There is a consensus that having One Nation One Exam will reduce students' burden and bring down their stress. Such a scheme indeed was suggested as part of the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. It is only at the ideation stage now, and more discussions are required before it can be implemented.

UGC IS ON A PERPETUAL QUEST TO MAKE THE CONDUCTION OF CUET AS SMOOTH AS POSSIBLE. TO ENSURE THE SAME, LET'S LOOK AT WHAT WILL BE DIFFERENT ABOUT CUET UG & PG IN 2024

- Possibility of normalisation of scores for CUET-UG
- While CUET-UG witnesses an increase in exam centres, CUET-PG has noted a dip
- The number of questions for CUET-PG has been reduced from 100 to 75 multiple choice questions (MCQs), and the CUET-PG exam duration has been reduced to 105 minutes, as against 120 minutes earlier
- NTA has increased the CUET-PG fee for all category students by ₹200. Candidates belonging to the general category will have to pay ₹1,200 and those under OBC-NCL (Other Backward Classes - Non-Creamy Layer)/Gen-EWS (Economically Weaker Section) will have to pay ₹1,000
- NTA has also increased the application fees for the UG exam. The amount for the General Category students which was ₹750 has been increased to ₹1,000 for up to three subjects. For the other category students, there has been a hike of an amount of ₹150-200 as compared to previous year.

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MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Images received

In 1986, the Soviet Vega 1 began returning images of Halley's Comet. These were used to plan a close flyby of the comet by the Giotto spacecraft

THE SPACE PROBE

Vega 1 was a Soviet space probe launched by a Proton 8K82K rocket from Baikonur Cosmodone on December 15, 1984 and its twin, Vega 2 was launched after six days

THE MISSION

The mission included a Venus swingby and flyby of Halley's Comet, where it would return images and data to learn more about it

THE COMET IMAGES

The image showed two bright areas on the comet that were believed to be a double nucleus but turned out to be two jets emitting from the comet

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

SOUNDS GOOD!

Fresh off his Grammy win for the album *This Moment*, percussionist V Selvaganesh – who will be performing in Bengaluru this month – recalls his family's push to take up the kanjira, which might have been considered a 'secondary instrument', but has got him fame beyond measure

DESE GOWDA

PEOPLE have continually asked me what I was feeling when I went on stage to receive the Grammy. I've never said this before, but I was thinking of this one photograph that John [Mclaughlin] ji had shown a while back. It was taken in the '80s. John ji, Shankar [Mahadevan] ji, Zakir [Hussain] bhai, and my dad [Vikku Vinayakram] are sitting together, with me standing behind them in my school uniform, holding a soda!" shares percussionist **V Selvaganesh**, adding, "Back then, I could never have imagined that I would one day play with these legendary musicians, be a co-producer for an album, and win a Grammy. It's a dream come true."

A member of the iconic band Remember Shakti, for Selvaganesh, his recent Grammy win for the album *This Moment*, was a culmination of a journey intertwined with family legacy and his own commitment to elevating a humble instrument. Born into a musical dynasty, the 52-year-old was exposed to Carnatic music from a very young age. "My grandfather [TR Harihara Sarma] was a percussionist, followed by my father and then myself. When I was four or five months old, my grandfather would apparently keep me in his lap and teach his students," he says.

Selvaganesh's path, however, wasn't set in stone: "I initially aspired to be a mridangam player," he reveals. "But my grandfather suggested taking up the kanjira, which, back then, was seen as a secondary instrument. He said, 'Take up this instrument (kanjira) because we don't have many people who play it. Someone needs to keep it alive, and I believe our family should do it," he recalls.

When he joined the band Shakti, it not only gave him global exposure but also elevated the ghatam to a global level. "If I had chosen to become a mridangam player, I would have faced intense competition. There were already numerous mridangam players, and carving out my own style would have been a challenge. My uncle always said that every musician must create their own style. If someone closes their eyes and listens, they should be able to tell who's playing. Which is what I've worked hard for," he says.

Meanwhile, with the upcoming Mahindra Percussion Festival to be held in Bengaluru later this month, Selvaganesh is set to realise one of his long-standing goals – a ghatam symphony. "My father's vision was to explore the possibility of a concert solely dedicated to percussion, with the feel of a symphony. Of course, the term 'symphony' encompasses a lot, and while I wouldn't say it's unprecedented, only a few have attempted something like this. However, our efforts have been promising. Our primary concern is creating something that sounds good to us, making it easier to present it in a way that resonates with the audience. So far, the music has exceeded our expectations in terms of composition," he shares.

(From left) Shankar Mahadevan, Ganesh Rajagopalan, Zakir Hussain and V Selvaganesh post their Grammy win in Feb '24

> *I could never have imagined that I would one day play with these legendary musicians, be a co-producer for a [Shakti] album, and win a Grammy. It's a dream come true*
>
> V Selvaganesh, percussionist

GRUB HUB

Aslam Gafoor (@aslamgafoor) is a hospitality professional with experience in business development, sales and marketing with well-known hotels, and food and beverage companies. A few of his passions are travel, food and wine, and he enjoys sharing these experiences as a columnist.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The first prize winner will win a voucher worth ₹2,000 from Orah Brewgarden**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Pufferfish 2) Snails
3) Shark (fermented)

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Siddharth Shedde
2) Dr Vibhashree G N
3) Surya

FUN & FEARLESS

PG 3

Gender bender

Director Rajni Basumatary's Bodo-language film, *Gorai Phakhri* – which delves into the nature of patriarchy in everyday life – will be screened at BIFFes

POOJA DAS

OFTEN when we think of patriarchy and its representation in films, we imagine overt depictions of violence. However, violence does not always have to be physical and can also be seen in small things that add up to a society rooted in patriarchy. Filmmaker **Rajni Basumatary's** third directorial *Gorai Phakhri* (*Wild Swans*), set to be screened on March 6 at the Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes), is one such exploration of inequality in everyday instances that go unnoticed. "The general impression is that the Northeast is gender-equal and many people have the tendency to say that we are much better than that society but the societies we are comparing ourselves with are hardly a benchmark in gender equality," she remarks.

The film, inspired by observations in her personal life, portrays the subtle yet impactful ways in which gender inequality manifests. "You don't have to be harassed to say I am unequal. There are smaller instances – if you belong to a financially backward family and have two children with the choice to educate only one, then it's always the boy who is educated, not the girl. These kinds of inequalities on a small scale later turn into bigger problems. Girls think this is the way so they have to conform to it and boys think they are entitled to it," explains Basumatary.

What also sets *Gorai Phakhri* apart is its all-female cast. "The idea was not to shun the male characters but as we progressed, we felt it would be fun to make a film on patriarchy without men," she says. But how does one make a film addressing patriarchy without men? "If I tell everything, it won't be fun," she laughs, adding, "It was not a handicap. We used pictures and voices instead of showing them on screen. It also goes to show that men don't have to breathe down your neck to oppress you. They are always there, they are the dominant force."

Set in the foothills of Bodoland, the film revolves around a doctoral student who comes back to her hometown for research and witnesses the effects of deep-seated patriarchy on the everyday lives of women. "When the separatist movements happened in our region, the women were hardly taken as partners. They are simply told what to do. Had it been an equal society, there would be consent sought," adds Basumatary.

Basumatary notes that the response from the audiences has been heartwarming. "Women filmmakers are reaching the hearts of the audience," she says. The writer-filmmaker, who has also acted in movies like *Mary Kom* says, "In independent films, you are always multitasking. I do enjoy acting because it's a good break from my hard days as a filmmaker."

(Gorai Phakhri will be screened on March 6, 10.20am at Screen 6 at the PVR Inox, Orion Mall, Rajajinagar)

A still from *Gorai Phakhri*

5,000 cinema lovers gather on Sunday

The ongoing Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) culminated its third day with a footfall of over 5,000 cinema lovers who got to watch some of the best films from around the world and country. Marking 90 years of Kannada cinema, the festival had a panel discussion on Suvarana Karnataka Sambharama and 90 years of Kannada talkie; discussing various aspects of the industry. Representing the diversity of languages at the festival were movies like *Moogajjana Koli*, the first movie made in Arebhashe, a dialect of Kannada along with movies in Santhali, Markodi, and more.

CITY READ

IIIT-B and IAF collaborate to bring innovation in telecommunications technology

The International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B) and the Software Development Institute (SDI) of the Indian Air Force (IAF) have decided to collaborate to drive innovation in waveform design to enhance the efficiency of airborne systems. While IIIT-B will offer expertise in R&D activities, SDI will help implement the ideas with its proficiency in software development. The institution is also offering a training programme titled 'Communication Theory and DSP for Waveform Design' for selected IAF personnel. The collaboration will add to the capabilities of IAF and improve the country's technological landscape .

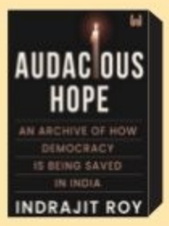
Model United Nations conference held

The 10th edition of Canadian International School Model United Nations (CISMUN X), was held recently at its campus with participation from far and wide. This event witnessed the presence of 19 schools and 350 delegates spread over South India and South-East Asia. The conference theme, 'Fostering Peace: Piece by Piece' encapsulates the methodology required to mitigate problems with world affairs and global politics today; working one step at a time to instil hope in a world that appears ever-fragmented.

Bike rental firm to hold motorcycle workshop for Women's Day

Royal Brothers, a bike rental company, and Moto Business Service India Private Limited (MBSI), a subsidiary of Yamaha Motor, have launched the 7th edition of 'RB for Women', an initiative that aims to encourage more women to embrace motorcycling as a symbol of adventure and autonomy. Being launched around the occasion of Women's Day, the organisers seek to train at least 100 women to ride motorcycles and other two-wheelers. The training programme covers all aspects of riding a scooter and a motorcycle, including basic skills, advanced techniques, and, most importantly, following all safety protocols.

BOOK NOOK



Audacious Hope: An Archive of How Democracy is Being Saved in India

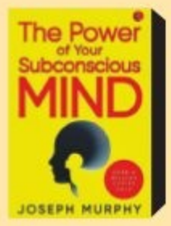
by Indrajit Roy

Ordinary folk in India have stood up to repressive state authority. Their vital acts of hope preserve the collective spirit of resistance and unwavering resilience to continue the fight for democracy.

Love as a Business Strategy

by Mohammad F Anwar, Frank E Danna, Jeffrey F Ma, Christopher J Pitre

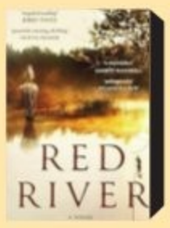
The book offers a new, people-first framework for achieving any business outcome. It contains real-world examples of mistakes, heartbreak, and redemption.



The Power of Your Subconscious Mind

by Joseph Murphy

Wondered why one is joyous while another is miserable; why some are fearful and another is exuding confidence? This self-help book reveals the innate powers of the subconscious mind by fusing wisdom and scientific research.



Red River: A novel

by Somnath Batabyal

Set in the north-east of India, this is an exploration a man's love for a woman and a more militant love for community and nation. The action moves from Guwahati to London, surging and quietening as we encounter characters and situations.

TOUCH OF CLASS

Designer Nishita Thakurdas and content creator Zohara Jamal at the showcase of the former's latest luxury tableware collection on Saturday | **SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA**

QUICKFIX

SMASHED BROCCOLI

INGREDIENTS

- **Broccoli florets:** around 12
- **Garlic (minced):** 2 cloves
- **Olive oil:** 2 tbsp
- **Salt and pepper to taste**

METHOD

- Preheat your air fryer to 375°F (190°C).
- Steam or blanch the broccoli florets until they are slightly tender but still have a crunch. You can boil them or use a steamer.
- In a bowl, toss the steamed broccoli with olive oil, minced garlic, salt, and pepper.
- Place the broccoli in a single layer in the air fryer basket.
- Using a fork or potato masher, gently smash the broccoli to flatten it.
- Air fry the florets for about ten minutes. Make sure the edges are crispy and golden brown.
- Remove it from the air fryer and serve with a chilli sauce.

Contributed by **Tina Gaur,** Mumbai

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Coaster Painting

Learn to create beautiful landscapes on wooden coasters from scratch. Suited for beginners, all the materials are on the house!

WHEN: Mar 4, 5pm
WHERE: Art Beat, HSR Layout
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Environment Talk

Join an interesting conversation with Raman Sukumar, where he takes you through a journey of elephant-human relationship over the years. **WHEN:** March 4, 6.30 pm **WHERE:** Bangalore International Centre, Domlur **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

Comedy Night

Give yourself a chance to relax on a Tuesday with a laughter session full of surprises and healthy food.

WHEN: March 4, 8.30 pm
WHERE: YUCK Comedy Club, Indiranagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

LEGO Time

De-stress yourself and build something fun with your friends from a huge LEGO collection of more than 1 million pieces.

WHEN: March 4, 5pm **WHERE:** AZPIRE.in Mind Gym with Toys, CV Raman Nagar **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

Mastering Chords

With theoretical teachings and practical exposure, explore the anatomy of chords and master playing them on the guitar and ukulele. **WHEN:** March 4, 8.30 pm
WHERE: My School of Rock, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Standup Comedy

Shoo away your Monday blues and laugh your heart out with a comedy night revolving around your daily life topics. **WHEN:** March 4, 8.30 pm **WHERE:** Uncle Peter's Pancakes & Cafe, Koramangala **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

Continental Cooking

Meet various food enthusiasts from around the city as you explore together and learn how to cook different international cuisines.
WHEN: March 4, 2pm
WHERE: SmallWorld, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Karaoke Night

Sing along with your favourite tunes with no fear of being judged and enjoy the night with your family and friends. **WHEN:** March 4, 10pm **WHERE:** Marcopolo Cafe, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

DJ Night

Dance the night away with DJ Toph & DJ Zac! Don't miss this sensational DJ night filled with beats, rhythm, and electrifying vibes.

WHEN: March 4, 8 pm
WHERE: JustBlr, Ashok Nagar
DETAILS: highape.com

DR VIVEK ARORA
drvivekarora@hotmail.com

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi

What are fleas, and are they life-threatening?

ASK AN XPERT

Fleas are ectoparasites (external parasites) found on the skin of cats and dogs. The fleas are also intermediate hosts of tapeworms and other parasitic infections, thus building the threat of tape worm infestation in human beings as well. No, fleas are not life-threatening, but the extent and variety of infections they can cause can make them life-threatening. Fleas can cause flea allergy dermatitis (FAD), an immunological reaction on the skin of the host manifested by excessive pruritus (itching), erythema (redness), and secondary skin infection. Since fleas require a host to survive, they can hibernate for a long time (up to a year), and normal colonies are numerous. The flea infestation can start to occur in March and peak in the summer; however, using an anti-flea prevention round the year is strongly recommended.

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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FITBIT

EKA PADA RAJA KAPOTASANA 2 PREP

(ONE-LEGGED KING PIGEON POSE 2 PREP)

This is a standing asana increases flexibility and offers a wide range of physical and spiritual benefits. It is also associated with Ajna (third eye) Chakra. To open a third eye is to accept spiritual wisdom and discernment The third eye refers to the gate that leads to the inner realms and spaces of higher consciousness.

STEPS

- Start with Adho Mukha Svanasana and remain here for about 3–4 breaths.
- Inhale, lift your left foot, and bring it forward into a Utthita Ashwa Sanchalanasana (Lunge Pose).
- Exhale, bring the shoulders in line with the knee and ankle.
- Slowly bring your hips and back knees down and come to Anjaneyasana (Low Lunge Hands to Knee).
- Try balancing as you gently push your hips down and stretch your arms as in a Sthira Sukham Asanam (steady-comfortable pose).
- Bend your right leg, ensuring that the knee is comfortable. Keep your arms straight on the sides, your spine straight, and your back knee bent towards the glutes.
- Breathe gently and feel the opening of your hips and chest. You can feel a deep stretch at the arms, shoulders, front torso, hips, quadriceps, knee and hamstrings.
- Stay in this posture as you push the hips lower for about 2–3 breaths initially. Then, with practice, you can increase the duration.
- To release, exhale and lower the leg down, and bring back the arms to the original position.
- Gently come back to Adho Mukha Svanasana by taking a few breaths.
- Repeat the practice on the other side.
- Finally, relax in Balasana (Child Pose).

BENEFITS

- This asana activates various joints in your body.
- Stretches and stimulates the chest and diaphragm.
- Stimulates the digestive, respiratory, and reproductive organs.
- This asana is very good for the cardiovascular system.
- Increases the capacity of the lungs, thereby improving the respiratory system.
- It aids in increasing concentration.
- Cures the issues related to sciatic nerve pain, digestive problems, and certain reproductive diseases.
- Effective for endocrine glands like the testes and ovaries.
- Balances Swadisthana (Sacral), Muladhara (Root), and Anahata (Heart) Chakras.

LIMITATIONS

- People with injuries to the ankle, knees, hips, shoulder, rib cage, elbows, or wrists, vertigo problems, and senior citizens should avoid this.
- Pregnant women can practice this during their ninth month with assistance, but it should be avoided in the initial months of their pregnancy.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

ARTCORNER

LIFE IN A METRO

Pedestrians (2022) by Sudhir Patwardhan depicts people striding to work, hanging from trains and walking in crowded streets.

FUN & FEARLESS

With unparalleled style and power, the new Mahindra XUV400 is indeed a name to reckon with on Indian roads

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

THOUGH electric cars account for just below 10 per cent of total car sales in India, there is optimism about the future. Car manufacturers are constantly upgrading their portfolios to maintain market excitement.

Mahindra, heavily investing in the EV biz, has introduced a significant facelift to their electric SUV, the XUV400.

After spending a week with the new vehicle, I have some insights to share.

Looks

The XUV400 Pro Range makes a bold statement with its new Nebula Blue colour option, complemented by a sleek Shark Fin Antenna, enhancing the all-electric SUV's overall aesthetic.

The XUV400 Pro edition maintains a similar exterior to the outgoing version but features an all-new interior colour theme. It boasts a dual-tone black and grey interior, replacing the all-black theme of the previous model.

New, beautiful, and useful additions include a 10.25-inch (26 cm) touchscreen, a 10.25-inch digital instrument cluster, and a wireless charger.

The cabin balances comfort and style effectively. The airy light-grey colour pairs with mild black for a nice contrast. Satin-copper accents on control knobs, the shift lever, and AC vent bezels highlight their electric nature.

The twin-peak logo on the steering wheel also follows this colour theme, with the addition of a slim blue border.

However, the Dual-zone Automatic Temperature Control, complemented by dedicated rear air vents, ensures a consistently comfortable environment for all passengers.

The Adrenox-connected car system, with over 50 features, is integrated into the XUV400. Wireless Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, along with Alexa compatibility, cater to tech-savvy customers.

The XUV400 is 4200mm long and has a wheelbase of 2600 mm, translating to excellent cabin space, legroom, and a boot space of 378 litres. The vehicle is available in 12 colours.

Drive

The car is fun to drive. Mahindra even labels the ECO drive mode as Fun mode Then there are the Fast and Fearless modes. The 150-hp motor offers excellent power and acceleration. Power delivery is linear, and acceleration does not feel lacking even in Fun mode.

Fearless mode provides maximum acceleration but reduces the driving range. In this mode, the speed can reach 150kph, while it is restricted to 90kph in Fun mode.

The company claims acceleration of 0-100km/h in just 8.3 seconds, but I achieved it in 9 seconds.

The EV boasts a best-in-class torque output of 310Nm, making for a very comfortable long drive. The absence of a 360-degree camera is quite disappointing.

Different regeneration levels are available. In L mode, the regeneration feels strong, allowing the car to stop without any brake pedal input, simply by lifting the foot off the accelerator pedal. The XUV400 offers a very comfortable ride due to its suspension tuning.

The XUV400 also offers many safety features, including six airbags, an auto-dimming IRVM, disc brakes on all four, ISOFIX seats, a reverse camera, rain-sensing wipers, auto headlamps, etc. Its dust and waterproof battery pack and motor meet IP67 standards, and the fast charging works well too.

Variants

The XUV400 Pro is available in two trims: EC Pro and EL Pro. The EC Pro features a 34.5kWh battery and a 3.3kW charger, while the EL Pro offers a 34.5kWh or 39.4kWh battery and a 7.2kW charger. The smaller battery provides a range of up to 375km, and the larger battery offers up to 456km. I tried the top variant.

Final verdict

With numerous modern features, a powerful motor, a large battery pack, comprehensive safety features, a comfortable ride, and logical pricing, the XUV400 Pro can face any competition in its segment.

PRICES

Variant	Battery	Charger	Ex-showroom price
EC Pro	34.5 kWh	3.3 kW AC	₹15,49,000
EL Pro	34.5 kWh	7.2 kW AC	₹16,74,000
EL Pro	39.4 kWh	7.2 kW AC	₹17,49,000

XPRESS HIGHWAY
FORTNIGHTLY SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

The writer is a freelance auto expert who hosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'

AUTO UPDATES

Maruti Suzuki ROCK N' ROAD 4X4 Masters Championship

Maruti Suzuki India announced the completion of the North Zone qualifying leg of the ROCK N' ROAD 4X4 Masters championship, an off-roading championship designed exclusively for budding off-roading enthusiasts who are JIMNY owners. Next rounds in Shillong, Hyderabad, Vagamon, Bengaluru, Mumbai, & Pune. The finale will be in Goa.

Skoda rolls out Slavia Style Edition

Skoda Auto India has introduced the Slavia Style Edition of its best-selling, five-star safe, crash-tested sedan. Skoda Auto India will launch 500 units of the Style Edition of the Slavia. All 500 will come exclusively with the 1.5 TSI engine mated to the 7-speed DSG automatic gearbox. The Style Edition is slotted above the top-of-the-line Style variant of the Slavia. The ex-showroom price is ₹19,13,400 for the 1.5 TSI 7-speed DSG model.

Mercedes-Benz unveils AMG Vision Gran Turismo

Mercedes-Benz unveiled the visionary super sports concept car - Mercedes-Benz AMG Vision Gran Turismo, at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre in Mumbai. The vehicle will be on display at the Cultural Centre until May 2024, and viewers can interact with a video of the car via the QR Code. This is the third concept car Mercedes-Benz has displayed in India after the stunning Vision Maybach 6 and the outstanding Concept EQG.

CLASSIFIEDS

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) SHEEBA AGUIRRE HERNANDEZ** residing at No.4, 3rd Cross, Markham Road, Behind Garuda Mall, Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru-560025, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SHEEBA AGUIRRE HERNANDEZ** to **(NEW NAME) SHEEBA AGUIRRE RAMAMURTHY** vide affidavit dated 01.03.2024 sworn before Notary K.Venkateshan Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SANDEEP KUMAR N.** aged about 23 years S/o. Nihal Chand Jain and Sarika Jain Residing at Kamal Dev Kunj, No.19, K 3rd Street, Ashok Nagar, Bangalore - 560025, Do solemnly affirm that my actual name is SANDEEP KUMAR N. and wrongly mentioned in my passport as **SUNDEEP KUMAR N.** In future my name called as **SANDEEP KUMAR N.** for all the Purpose. Affidavit sworn before Notary Prasad Shetty K.B., Bengaluru-560042, Reg. No. 12624

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MAHENDAR JAIN** R/at No.14, ARHAM SHREE Apartments, Flat No. 101, 1st floor, Jain temple road, V.V.Puram, Bangalore - 560004. have changed my Son's name from **JENISH MAHENDAR JAIN** to **JENISH JAIN** vide affidavit dated: 2/3/2024 Before Notary **SRINIVAS.D** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHRUTI CHANDESH OSWAL**, D/o. Chandesh Oswal, residing at No. Towner - 6-801, Salarpuria Sattva Divinity, Mysore Road, Nayandahalli, Bangalore-560026, Karnataka, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **GOLDY CHANDRABHAN OSWAL** to **SHRUTI CHANDESH OSWAL,** vide affidavit dated 02.03.2024, sworn to before Mamatha .N.K, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I **DUMMI SALEEM** S/o Late D D Hussain Sab, aged about 67 years, Residing at 3682/A/121, 1st Cross, Tharalubalu Badavane, Davangere, Karnataka-577004, do here by state that my name by mistake mentioned as **SALEEM** in my passport. I state and declare that my Correct name is **DUMMI SALEEM** vide affidavit dated 02.03.2024 sworn to before G.R. Ravichandra Reddy, Advocate & Notary Public, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **K S INAYATH ULLA, (KHAKI SYED INAYATHULLA)** S/o Late Syed Amarulla, residing at No. 69, 5th Cross, 32nd C Main T M C S Layout, Near Indira Gandhi Circle, Sarakki, J.P. Nagar 1st Phase, Bangalore - 560078, declare that my names **Viz : K S INAYATH ULLA, KHAKI SYED INAYATHULLA & SAYEED ENAYATH ULLA** belongs to me only and they are not distinct or different, vide affidavit dated 29-02-2024 before Notary Public **ARAVIND PATIL G.G.**, Bangalore.

Change of Name
I, **Parmeshwar Solanki, S/o Nemichand Solanki aged about 27 years, R/o :374, Nageshwari Copmlex, Old Post Office, Opposite Gunjur, Bangalore-560087** is hereby stating that in my **SSLC marks card my name is Parmeshwar and in PAN and Aadhar Card it is printed as Parmeshwar Solanki.**
So I hereby declare in front of the **Notary Sri Yankoba, Bangalore on 02.03.2024** that, **Parmeshwar and Parmeshwar Solanki** are the same. In future I will called as **Parmeshwar Solanki** Only.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, KAVITHA KANNAN, Age - 51 years, resident of No. 110, Muneshwara Layout, Kodichikkanahalli, Near Golden Park Apartment, Bilekahalli, Bangalore – 560076 have changed my name from **KAVITHA KANNAN WALLAJAH PRASANNA to KAVITHA KANNAN** vide Affidavit Certificate No. IN-KA46316165966001W dated 02.03.2024 sworn before advocate and notary DHARANI P , Bangalore. Hence forth I shall be called as **KAVITHA KANNAN.**

AFFIDAVIT
I, **ANNAJI RAO VAIDYA** S/o Late Venkatesh Vaidya, R/at No.31, Near Honeybee Bakery, Malleswaram Bengaluru - 560003, hereby declare that as per some official records my name is **ANNAJI RAO VAIDYA** and in SSLC marks card and Pan card my name is mentioned as **V ANNAJI RAO VAIDYA**. Both the names belongs to me only henceforth my name will be **ANNAJI RAO VAIDYA** only in all my records and correspondence. Vide affidavit dated 28.02.2024 sworn to before Notary **H.C.Thammannagowda**.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mr. RAMACHANDRA SEKHAR SURESH BABU, aged about 47 years, S/o. Ramachandra Sekhar Reddy, residing at Villa 163, JRC Palladio, Handanahalli, Bikkanahalli, Sarjapur-Attibelle Road, Bangalore-562125., have changed my son's name from **SHASHANK KAMALUR to SHASHANK REDDY KAMALUR** vide Affidavit dated 01.03.2024 sworn before advocate and notary public B.M. Chandrashekar, Bengaluru-34

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SHEEBA AGUIRRE HERNANDEZ, residing at No.4, 3rd Cross, Markham Road, Behind Garuda Mall, Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru-560025, have changed my minor son's name from **JADON AGUIREE HERNANDEZ** to **JADON AGUIRRE RAMAMURTHY** vide affidavit dated 09.01.2024 sworn before Notary K.Venkateshan Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BHAVANA MAHENDAR JAIN,** W/o- **MAHENDAR JAIN** R/at No.14, ARHAM SHREE Apartments, Flat No. 101, 1st floor, Jain temple road, V.V.Puram, Bangalore - 560004. have changed my name to **BHAVANA** vide affidavit dated: 2/3/2024 Before Notary **SRINIVAS.D** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MAHENDAR JAIN** R/at No.14, ARHAM SHREE Apartments, Flat No. 101, 1st floor, Jain temple road, V.V.Puram, Bangalore - 560004. have changed my Son's name from **PAKSH MAHENDAR JAIN** to **PAKSH JAIN** vide affidavit dated: 2/3/2024 Before Notary **SRINIVAS.D** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mrs. VEENA N A**, Aged about 44 years, W/o. Ananthu N R, Residing at No. 211, 2nd Floor, Madhwa Maansa Fusion 4 Pearl Apartment, 7th Cross, Ashwathnarayana Road, Tirumala Nagar, Attur, Bangalore North, Bengaluru - 560 064, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **VEENA DEVI N** to **VEENA N A** vide affidavit dated 02.03.2024 sworn to before S.R. Ravikumar, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BABU YANE MAHABALA**, Aged about 64 years, S/o. Venkata Poojari, 3/137, Korgi, Kadina Bettu, Hosamata Post, Korgi, Udupi - 576 231, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MAHABALA KUNDAPURA** to **BABU YANE MAHABALA** vide affidavit dated 01.03.2024 sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **P M MUNIRAJU,** S/o P. muniswamy , aged about 49 years, residing at No.16, 15th main, 19th cross, behind Maharaja Agrasen Hospital, Padmanabhanagara, Bangalore 560061, have changed my daughter's name **Avika Anil** to **Avika Muniraju** vide Affidavit dated 02/03/2024 before Notary B K R Krishnamurthy

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Nagalakshmi. K.S,** aged 36 years, D/o. K. Siddaiah, W/o. Shakthi Bhuvaneswaran, residing at No.311, 13th cross, 2nd block Gnanabharathi BDA layout, Amma Ashrama arch road, Mariyappana palya, Bangalore - 560056, I declare that in my passport my name, i.e my given name is **Nagalakshmi kallarepura Siddaiah** and in the surname column it is blank. I have changed my given name as **Nagalakshmi** and surname as **Kallarepura Siddaiah,** vide affidavit dated 22/2/2024 sworn to before B. Prasanna advocate and notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VIMALA G, aged about 52 years, W/o. Gopinath.B.R, residing at #003, Ground Floor, M M Lake View Apartment, Royal Enclave, Jakkur Post, Bengaluru 560064, Karnataka State, I declare that the names VIMALA G and VIMALA S both the names belongs to me only, one and the same person, vide affidavit dated 26-02-2024, Sworn before Advocate and Notary Gangaraju B.N, Bangalore.**

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SHEEBA AGUIRRE HERNANDEZ, residing at No.4, 3rd Cross, Markham Road, Behind Garuda Mall, Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru-560025, have changed my minor son's name from **JOSHUA AGUIREE HERNANDEZ** to **JOSHUA AGUIRRE RAMAMURTHY** vide affidavit dated 09.01.2024 sworn before Notary K.Venkateshan Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) SHAHEEN MAJEED** residing at No.47, 1st Floor, Next to Galaxy School, Kanakanagar, RT Nagar Post, Bengaluru - 560032, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SHAHEEN MAJEED** to **(NEW NAME) SHAHEEN TAJ** vide affidavit dated 02.03.2024 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **Mrs. K. KOMALAM,** W/o Late M. Ravindran, age 71 years, R/at No. 102, Meghana Meadows, 4th Cross, K.E.B.Layout, Sanjay Nagar, Benglauru-560 094 do hereby declare that my correct name is **Mrs. K. KOMALAM,** but in the records, my name is entered as **Mrs. KOMALA VALLI** instead of **Mrs. K. KOMALAM,** both the name are one and the same and refers to me only, vide affidavit dated 2nd March 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **H.R. KARUNAKARA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **NITIN KAVADE**, S/o. Vithal Kavade, Aged about 29 years and Residing at No. 24, Rukmini Nilaya, 2nd Main Road, Binny Layout 2nd Stage, Bengaluru - 560 040, Karnataka, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **NITIN VITHAL KAVADE** to **NITIN KAVADE** vide affidavit dated 2.3.2024 sworn to before H.H. Nagaraj, Advocate & Notary Public, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **GIRISH KORGI MAHABALA**, Aged about 36 years, S/o. Babu Yane Mahabala, No. 964, 1st Block, 2nd Cross, 3rd Stage, Basaveshwara Nagar, Bangalore - 560 079, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **GIRISH KUNDAPURA MAHABALA** to **GIRISH KORGI MAHABALA** vide affidavit dated 01.03.2024 sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **P M MUNIRAJU,** S/o P. muniswamy , aged about 49 years, residing at No.16, 15th main, 19th cross, behind Maharaja Agrasen Hospital, Padmanabhanagara, Bangalore 560061, have changed my son's name **Nallapet Avyan** to **Avyan Muniraju** vide Affidavit dated 02/03/2024 before Notary B K R Krishnamurthy

AFFIDAVIT
I, **Suritha Sukendran** D/o late Keshavan Sukendran, aged about 45 yeas, residing at B2 S04, Mahaveer Varna, Kannamanagala, Bengaluru 560067, do hereby declare that, I got divorced under mutual consent date 06/04/2023, In the Court of IV Addl Senior Civil Judge Bengaluru, Karnataka, India-560067. I submit that for obtaining a new passport which is Y5615527 I had changed my name from **Suritha Sukendran Sharma** to previous maiden name ie **Suritha Sukendran** via Affidavit for name change and correction dated on 04/05/2023.
Suritha Sukendran and **Suritha Sukendran Sharma** is name of one and the same person that is myself. In the said affidavit correction of divorce date being **06/04/2023** not 24/02/2023. Current Affidavit is for name change and correction of divorce date vide affidavit dated 02/03/2023 sworn before P Nagash Advocate & Notary Govt of India, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **Suritha Sukendran** D/o late Keshavan Sukendran, aged about 45 years, residing at B2 S04, Mahaveer Varna, Kannamanagala, Bengaluru - 560067. I do hereby declare that, I got divorced under mutual consent date 06/04/2023 in the Court of IV Addl Senior Civil Judge, Bengaluru Rural District, Karnataka, India, In the said order Iam the sole custodian and hold the guardianship also the legal signatory of my minor daughter **Kritika Sharma.**
Kritika Sharma name has been changed to **Kritikka Suritha,** holding passport No.Y8357555. **Kritika Sharma** and **Kritikka Suritha** are the same person, via Affidavit for name change and correction dated on 29/08/2023. In the said Affidavit, correction of divorce date is **06/04/2023** not 24/02/2023. Current Affidavit is for name change and correction of divorce date vide Affidavit dated 02/03/2023 sworn before P Nagesh Advocate & Notary Govt of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ASHALATA,** R/a #90, 2nd Cross, Vinayaka Layout, Kempapura, Hebbal, Bangalore-560024, have changed my name to **ASHA LATHA** vide affidavit dt: 01.03.2024 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, B'lore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **JAGADEVI ADKI**, aged 44 years, W/o. **Umesh Adki**, residing of No. 62, "Veerabhadreshwara Nilaya" 1st Cross, Ekadanta Nagara, Herohalli, Benglauru-560091, have changed my name from **PREETHI ADKI ALIAS PREETI ADKI** to **JAGADEVI ADKI** vide affidavit dated: 01-03-2024 sworn before Notary **H.S. SAKALESH ARADHYA,** BENGALURU.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHRUTHI S**, Aadhaar No. 7351 6949 1965 D/o C Srinivasa Murthy aged about 35 years, residing at No. 26. New No. 89, 5th Main, Behind Ramachandra Hospital, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, T-Dasarahalli, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560057, have changed my name from **SHRUTHI KISHORE** to **SHRUTHI S**, vide Affidavit dated 01st MARCH 2024 bearing E-Stamp Paper Certificate No. IN-KA46252073398307W Sworn before Notary **N. MAHESHA,** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **GEETHA** is legally wedded spouse of No. JC-180460 F, Rank: SUBEDAR (Retd.), Name: THIMMAIAH B.M., presently residing at No. 21, Flat No. 202, Naga Corner Stone Apartment, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Amar Jyothi Layout, Sanjaynagar, Bengaluru - 560 094, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **GEETHA** to **B.T. GEETHA** vide affidavit dated 01.03.2024 sworn to before Chandrakala, Advocate and Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **SHAIKH MOIDUL ISLAM**, Aged about 35 years, S/o. Shaikh Golam Mustafa, Residing at No. 5/A, 2nd Floor, ESSEN Building, Dynamatic Road, T Dasarahalli, Chokkasandra, Bengaluru - 560 057, do hereby declare that both the names pertain to the one and the same person that is **MAIDUL SEKH ISLAM** to **SHAIKH MOIDUL ISLAM**. That my real name is **SHAIKH MOIDUL ISLAM.** Vide affidavit dated 19.02.2024 sworn to before G.R. Ravichandra Reddy, Advocate & Notary Public, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BHUMIKA P KESANUR** (New Name), D/o. Purnima Kesanur and Late. Prashant Kesanur, residing at No. A502, Brigade Gardenia, J P Nagar 8th Phase, Bengaluru-560078, Karnataka, India, that I have changed my name from **BHUMIKA KESANUR** (Old Name) to **BHUMIKA P KESANUR** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called **BHUMIKA P KESANUR** (New Name) only for all purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 02/03/2024, before Notary MOHAMMED HUSSAIN. K, Bangalore.

'I LIKE TO CHOOSE CHARACTERS AND PROJECTS THAT ALIGN WITH MY VISION'

...says Nishvika as she discusses her role in Karataka Damanaka, shaking a leg with Prabhudeva, being director Yogaraj Bhat's muse, and more

Prabhudeva and Nishvika

A SHARADHAA

THEY say, 'Don't judge a book by its cover.' Similarly, Nishvika remarks that her glamorous look in the song *Hithalaka Karibyada Maava*, in which she dances alongside Prabhudeva, doesn't reflect the role she plays in the Yogaraj Bhat directorial *Karataka Damanaka*. The film, bankrolled by Rockline Entertainment also stars Shivarajkumar and Priya Anand in the ensemble cast.

Talking to *CE* ahead of the film's release this week (March 8), she reveals that her role in the film is mostly the opposite of glamourised. "Post *Guru Shishayaru*, I have often been approached to play a village belle. However, in *Karataka Damanaka*, set in a North Karnataka village, my role is not just the exact opposite of glamaourised. I play Kempi, a woman ostracized by society, involved in the family liquor business, and silenced by inequality and societal opinions. I come across as this quiet, selfless girl without a voice," she says.

Nishvika admits that she particularly values the song *Hitalaka Karibyada Maava* because she got the opportunity to dance alongside none other than Prabhudeva. "The moment I learned I was paired opposite Prabhudeva, my only wish was for a dance number with him. I was adamant about it until I got the confirmation from the team. When I finally got the opportunity, I wondered how I would pull off dancing with such a stalwart," she adds. "The song is a dream sequence, meant to exude glamour. But more importantly, it's with Prabhudeva. I tried my best to match his steps, but his spontaneity and ease were unparalleled. It's like he lives and breathes dance effortlessly. I had to cancel a trip to London to rehearse for this song, for six days consecutively. As Prabhudeva believes in perfection in dance and on-screen chemistry, the song required some prior work, and he dedicatedly rehearsed with me throughout."

"Equally, he is a fantastic actor," Nishvika says about Prabhudeva. "When we were shooting, we went for retakes because there were times he would be hilarious during takes, which would result in Priya and I laughing out loud. For him, it is not just about delivering dialogue, but also how one performs a scene. As a dancer, he is the Indian Michael Jackson, so I can't say which one was better. I enjoyed watching him perform and dance."

Nishvika, describing the on-screen chemistry between Shivarajkumar and Prabhudeva as 'insane', also mentions that the former's presence on screen is captivating. "He exudes innocence with a subtle yet impeccable sense of humour. His portrayal makes you fall in love with the character," she remarks. Nishvika also cherishes her bond with Priya Anand, stating, "I have developed a genuine friendship with Priya Anand, which I will carry with me for life. We shared wonderful moments off-screen. I used to always look for Priya when I reached the film's sets. She is not only an amazing person, but also honest and authentic as her performances."

Nishvika has emerged as the latest muse of director Yogaraj Bhat, who has featured her in multiple films and is now one of the female leads in *Karataka Damanaka*. "I have been fortunate to be repeatedly chosen by directors, and I believe it's because I establish a strong rapport with the team first," Nishvika shares. "I can openly discuss ideas, which facilitates progress. I consider myself a director's actor, dedicated to fulfilling their vision. So far, it has served me well. As for Yogaraj Bhat, he has pushed me to explore new facets of acting. Whether it's a cameo in *Gaalipata 2* or a special song in *Garadi*, it has only proven successful. I strive to meet his expectations."

As she navigates her career, Nishvika likes to commit to quality over quantity. "I am discerning about the roles I take on. I refuse to do anything just for the sake of visibility or to fill a void. I prefer to wait for opportunities that elevate my career or satisfy me as an actor. This approach has proven effective for me. Amidst the plethora of offers, I selectively choose the ones that connect with me and the audience the most. While I am open to working in other languages, I am awaiting the right projects and characters that align with my vision," she signs off.

I often wish I belonged to the '60s era: Rachitha Mahalakshmi

The actor, marking her Kannada debut with Jaggesh-Guruprasad's *Ranganayaka*, says she enjoyed being part of the period drama and embracing the traditional character and attire

CE FEATURES

RACHITHA Mahalakshmi, originally making her mark as a compère in Kannada, ventured into Tamil entertainment where she swiftly carved a niche for herself in daily soap operas. Transitioning seamlessly into the silver screen, she has also starred in a few web series. Despite her roots in Karnataka, her debut in Kannada cinema comes much later with the upcoming *Ranganayaka*.

"My commitments in Tamil kept me occupied, leaving little room for exploring other languages. Perhaps, I wasn't noticed much in Kannada and elsewhere. However, director Guruprasad, familiar with my work in Tamil serials, approached me for *Eddelu Manjunatha 2*, which is currently in production. While casting for *Ranganayaka*, he sought a heroine adept at expression and recommended me after an audition," she recounts. The actor reveals that, interestingly, till now she only knows her character name is Mahalakshmi and details about her role, as Guruprasad has kept the plot under wraps attempting to add to the intrigue until release.

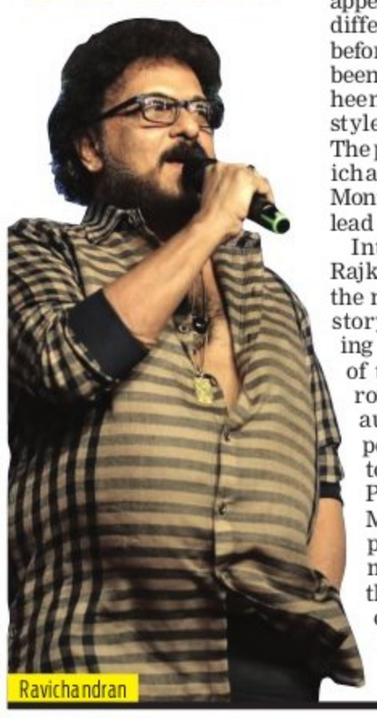
Set in 1911, the film unfolds as a period drama with characters deeply entrenched in the era's milieu. Working alongside Jaggesh was another allure for Rachitha. "I often wish I belonged to the '60s era, reminiscent of legendary actors like Savitri. In today's cinema, although different, I find joy in embracing the traditional characters and attire. While some may perceive it as outdated, I relish the experience," she reflects.

A still from the film

Rachitha reveals that collaborating with Jaggesh was both exciting and challenging. "It was a delight to work with him, as he created a jovial atmosphere on set. However, facing him in front of the camera wasn't a walk in the park. He is his usual self while rehearsing, but he surprises us in front of the camera, with additional dialogues on the set. But Guruprasad's guidance and my admiration for Jaggesh's work helped me navigate through the challenges," she concludes.

Ravichandran, Sonal Monteiro and Raghavendra Rajkumar team up for *Paravasha*

Sonal Monteiro



Ravichandran

CE FEATURES

RAVICHANDRAN, who's currently busy with the reality show Drama Juniors, has four films in the pipeline, including *Gowrishankar* and *The Judgement*. He also has a significant role in *KD - The Devil*, among others, which are in various stages of production. Apart from these, he has recently wrapped up another film titled *Paravasha*, the poster of which was released recently.

Directed by Sudheendra Nadigar and produced by Harish Gowda under Avyakta Cinemas, Paravasha stars Ravichandran alongside Raghavendra Rajkumar, Rajesh Nataranga, Sujay Shastry, Pavithra Lokesh, Ananya, and others in important roles.

Expressing his happiness about working with the new team, Ravichandran says, "I am appearing in a role that's quite different from what I've done before. My part in the film has been completed and I find Sudheendra Nadigar's direction style to be quite refreshing." The poster was released by Ravichandran along with Sonal Monteiro, who plays the female lead in the film.

Interestingly, Raghavendra Rajkumar, who is also part of the main cast, has penned the story for *Paravasha*. According to him, the film is a blend of thriller, family drama, and romance, catering to various audience sensibilities. A few portions of the film are yet to be shot. The shooting for Paravasha took place in Mangalore, Udupi, Manipal, and Kundapur. With music by Sachin Basrur, the film will also feature cinematography by Anand Meenakshi and editing by Prateek Shetty.

The name 'Appu' echoes like a heartbeat: Yuva Rajkumar

CE FEATURES

OBBANE Shiva Obbane Yuva, the first single from *Yuva*, which marks the debut launch of Yuva Rajkumar in the lead role, was released on Saturday at a grand event held at Chamarajanagar.

Speaking on this occasion, Yuva Rajkumar said, "My journey should begin from here. This has been my aspiration. I have done my best for this film. If there are any small mistakes, please forgive me. Regardless of any mistakes, I will rectify them in my next film. It's difficult to express my gratitude in words for the love you've given. My entire life is dedicated to your love and blessings. I will stand by you. Will you stand by me?"

Reminiscing about his grandparents (Rajkumar and Parvathamma Rajkumar) and about his father (Raghavendra Rajkumar), Yuva said, "They always come to my mind because I see all of them in you. They are all with you. I see my entire family in you." The people gathered at the event cheered 'Appu, Appu' (Puneeth Rajkumar was popularly known as Appu). Adding to the applause, Yuva said, "When I hear the name Appu, it echoes like a heartbeat."

Calling himself the son of this town (Charmarajanagar), Yuva said, "Raise me, nourish me. May your blessings and love always be there. Whatever I am today, whatever my family is, it's all because of the people, and I hope to be nurtured by you all." He further requested all to watch and promote Kannada films. Saptami Gowda is the female lead alongside Yuva Rajkumar in Yuva. The film is produced by Vijay Kirgandur, under the Hombale Films banner and is directed by Santosh Anandram. The film is slated for a March 29 release.

Yuva Rajkumar

An intricate story about the pursuit of money

JUGALBANDI

Director: Divakar Dimdima

Cast: Manasi Sudhir, Yash Shetty, Santhosh Ashray, Archana Kottige, Ashwin Rao Pallaki

RATING 2.5/5

A SHARADHAA

IN the bustling journey of life, where every step matters, survival relies on money. *Jugalbandi*, a suspenseful crime drama, intricately weaves three distinct plots, exploring the delicate interplay of destiny. The film revolves around a crystal, a representation of boundless prosperity, and about who seizes the reward and what fate holds for them. With such an intricate structure and heavy themes underlying the film, director Divakar Dimdima takes us on a journey through several interconnected stories.

One thread of the story follows a childless woman, longing for motherhood despite societal pressures. Another narrative arc delves into the aspirations of a dreamer aiming to transcend middle-class constraints by pursuing a career in the film industry. These stories are also contrasted with the point-of-view of a wealthy individual, underscoring the diverse experiences in our society. In a pivotal scene, a couple navigates the complexities of an intimate relationship, adding depth to the story. Meanwhile, we are also introduced to a speech-and-hearing-impaired individual, who attempts to steal the crystal and a visually-impaired person trapped in the bungalow at the same time.

Director Divakar Dimdima leverages the uniqueness of the premise well enough to make the film stand apart from generic crime dramas. Through meticulous attention to detail, audiences are assured of an engaging exploration of the characters and the themes. The performances of the actors and the striking makeup are a definite plus. The aspiration to become a film hero drives Yash Shetty's character, while Manasi Sudhir, with a compelling performance, shines as a woman yearning for motherhood. Santosh Ashray portrays a speech-impaired person convincingly while Archana Kotagi effectively portrays the challenges of middle-class upbringing. Archana and Ashwin Rao Pallaki, convey the complexity of their characters, and the intricacies of a romantic relationship with authenticity and depth. The performances of these actors truly bring the director's vision to life.

Jugalbandi remains faithful to its title by skillfully blending suspense with the diverse journeys of its characters. Ultimately, the film underscores how the various religions and their literature have not addressed the pursuit of money, despite it being an essential part of our lives. With its engrossing narrative and adept execution, *Jugalbandi* lingers in the mind well after the titles roll, offering a compelling choice for cinema aficionados in search of meaningful storytelling.